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LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
439,000
No 63,195

THE TIMES

30p

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1988

'Death on the Rock' witness lied for TV

Bank clerk made up story 'under pressure'

● A claim in the *Death on the Rock* TV documentary was based on invented evidence, the Gibraltar inquest heard
● Mrs Carmen Proetta admitted that she could have been mistaken when she said the terrorists tried to surrender
● Mr Ken Asquez, a witness, said he was not prepared to sign the statement a television researcher gave him
● Thames Television denied putting any pressure on witnesses who were interviewed in the programme

By Tony Dawe in Gibraltar and Richard Evans in London

A controversial claim about the killing of three IRA terrorists by the SAS in Gibraltar, made in the Thames Television programme *Death on the Rock*, was based on invented evidence contained in an unsigned statement, the Gibraltar inquest was told yesterday.

The documentary featured an anonymous interview which claimed that a soldier put his foot on the chest of Sean Savage, one of the IRA gang, as he lay dying on the ground and then pumped more bullets into him.

But the inquest was told that the interview was based on word for word on an affidavit which the witness did not know was being prepared.

When it was presented to Mr Ken Asquez, a bank clerk, by a Thames Television researcher he was unprepared to put his name to it.

Later the case against the SAS was further undermined by Mrs Carmen Proetta, who had said on *Death on the Rock* that two of the terrorists had put up their hands to surrender when they saw the soldiers.

Yesterday she agreed the gesture could have been one of shock. She also admitted there was uncertainty in her mind about who had fired the shots.

Mr Asquez yesterday not only retracted evidence contained in a handwritten statement he had made after the shootings, but told the inquest he only made the statement originally because of repeated pressure exerted on him by a retired major who was helping the Thames team. He understood Thames was prepared to make payments for an interview.

Mr John Laws, counsel for the Crown, told the inquest yesterday that Thames Television had still been prepared to put out to the public as evidence a statement from somebody they knew was unprepared to put his name to it.

The affidavit was drawn up by Mr Christopher Finch, a Gibraltar lawyer, who was then acting for Thames Television. He is also acting for the families of the IRA terrorist and sits behind their counsel, Mr Patrick McGrory, in the court.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which resisted government pressure to postpone the screening of the documentary until after the inquest, was last night being kept informed by Thames Television of developments.

"We understand that Thames Television are refusing any allegation of impropriety," a spokesman said.

When the IBA refused to bow to demands from the Foreign Secretary in April it justified its stance by saying *Death on the Rock* was a "responsibly made documentary".

Thames Television last night denied putting pressure on Mr Asquez or offering him money. But the revelations concerning the documentary provoked criticism from senior Conservative backbenchers.

Mr Michael Mates, MP for Hampshire East, said: "I bitterly complained about the programme being put out in the form it was at the time it happened because I never thought it was trying to get at the truth. It was trying to make a sensationalized story".

The unexpected and dramatic controversy over the television programme erupted when Mr Asquez, aged 20, was called to give evidence on the fourteenth day of the inquest into the deaths of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Savage.

He said he had written out a statement about the soldier shooting Savage on the ground because of pressure exerted on him by Major Bob Randall, a retired Army officer who lives in Gibraltar.

Continued on page 16, col 6



Mr Ken Asquez going in to give evidence yesterday. He retracted an earlier statement.

Stricken oil rig is floated off burning well

By Kerry Gill, Andrew Morgan and David Sapsted

The Ocean Odyssey exploration rig was successfully floated off its burning well in the North Sea yesterday.

However, survivors maintained that gas levels had far exceeded safety limits for some time before Thursday's blow-out, and that drilling had been suspended because of the unpredictable pressure.

The rig was floated off the well after specialist teams cut three of the eight anchor chains to help rescuers to go on board to search for Mr Timothy Williams, aged 25, from Kent.

Mr Williams, the rig's radio operator, stayed at his post to continue making distress calls while his colleagues evacuated the rig.

The apparent volatile state of the well was revealed as trade unions and MPs renewed their demands for an independent safety inspectorate for North Sea installations in the wake of the fire on the rig, which was inspected only last week by the Department of Energy.

According to Mr James Murphy, a self-employed mud engineer, gas levels aboard the Odyssey far exceeded safety limits for weeks before the accident.

Gas monitors on the rig had been indicating levels of up to 65 per cent on the drilling floor and more than 100 per cent on the lower levels of the massive exploratory platform.

He said: "We had unprecedented levels of gas on the rig and unprecedented gas pressure levels in the hole. It had been going on for six weeks. It was far and above the explosion limit."

"We were not working in a safe environment from that point of view. One or two people were overcome by gas and made physically ill by its effects."

However, Mr Dennis Tower, exploration manager for Arco British, the company which had leased the rig, denied the allegations.

He said: "We have talked to our drilling people and it is important to note that there is an extensive network of gas detectors on the rig. We are not aware of any report that they have gone off, indicating gas even in small concentrations. Wells in this area expected to encounter high pressures. They are not uncommon and we were expecting to deal with the high pressures."

Mr Robert Hendry, from Aberdeen, the engineer in charge of the operation to pump mud down the well shaft to hold back the gas, maintained that drilling had been stopped two weeks before the blow out because of the unpredictable nature of the gas flow from the well below.

Mr Hendry said that the flow could only be controlled by raking up the mud and

Continued on page 16, col 6



Another silver for Britain

The British team enjoyed further success in Seoul yesterday led by Nick Gillingham, who won a silver medal for the 200 metres breaststroke and twice broke the British record set 12 years ago.

On the opening day of the athletics Linford Christie beat Ben Johnson, the world-record holder, in the 100 metres heat and Cram, Elliot and McKean advanced to the next round of the 800 metres.

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Property	

Cheaper houses likely as buying slows

By Our City Staff

The demand for mortgages fell sharply last month, according to figures released yesterday by the Building Societies Association. The news came as the American Express Bank forecast that house prices were likely to fall in London, with the rest of the country following over the next two years.

While deposits continued to pour into building societies at more than £1 billion a month, the societies committed themselves in August to lending only £3,976 million, a fall of 25 per cent from July.

Mr Mark Boleat, Director-General of the Association, attributed the fall-off in demand to rising interest rates and the withdrawal of multiple mortgage interest tax relief.

The August figures showed actual lending of £5,686 billion, reflecting commitments made in the scramble to beat time to come," Mr Boleat said.

He believed Britain might have seen the peak in the housing market cycle. "There are now clear signs, in London and the south-east at least, that the housing market has moved from overheating to a more normal relationship between supply and demand."

The American Express Bank took a stronger line, saying the Chancellor's attempt to slow the economy through higher interest rates could result in house prices falling by nearly 15 per cent over the next two years, with serious consequences for debt arrears and the working of the housing market.

But the bank admitted that such a fall could be needed to cool Britain's overheated economy.

Thatcher resumes Europe offensive

From Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent, Madrid

Mrs Thatcher continued her offensive against European bureaucracy yesterday when she made plain her opposition to moves for new regulations on company law and worker participation in industry as part of the Single European Market of 1992.

Her remarks, at a press conference in Madrid at the end of her four-day continental tour, will have been especially unwelcome to Spain, which takes over the European Economic Community presidency in January.

Together with M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, is a strong advocate of "social space" and "cohesion" - umbrella words for linking the removal of trade barriers to new Community-wide rules for companies and new rights for employees. Señor Gonzalez will be using his six-month presidency to press ahead on those fronts.

But Mrs Thatcher dismissed such aspirations. "It's a new piece of jargon. I'm never quite sure what it is, but if it means having a regulation on Community company law, something on worker participation, then I would oppose that particular thing. I am a democrat and I am a meritocrat, and I believe you get on by merit, not by giving particular privileges to one particular group," she said.

Señor Gonzalez, flanking the Prime Minister at the press conference, diplomatically but firmly asserted the importance of bringing equal opportunities to depressed regions and disadvantaged groups.

On the issue of Gibraltar, Mrs Thatcher had some tough words for the colony while reiterating that Gibraltar would stay British as long as that was the wish of its people. She said she wanted to see it

Continued on page 16, col 2

Britain set to upgrade relations with Tehran

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and Iran are expected to agree next week to upgrade their diplomatic relations, a move which could improve prospects for the three British hostages held in Beirut.

Talks between senior British and Iranian officials will be held in Geneva at the beginning of the week. Next Friday, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, his Iranian counterpart, in New York.

The Times understands that the Government is now willing in principle to resume normal diplomatic relations and believes that it is now safe to send diplomats back to Tehran.

A senior Foreign Office official, probably an under-secretary, will discuss the level to which relations should be restored. Britain will insist that the two countries should have equal numbers of diplomats in each other's capitals, and that the British Embassy in Tehran should function on a normal basis.

Yard defends Lamplugh personal life

By Michael Horsnell

Scotland Yard yesterday stepped into a publishing controversy over the personal life of missing estate agent Suzy Lamplugh when it issued an unprecedented statement to protect her reputation.

The statement, by Assistant Commissioner Paul Condon, effectively refutes claims in a book about her sex life which have "absolutely devastated" her parents.

The book, by Mr Andrew Stephen, a journalist on *The Observer*, claims she had numerous lovers and was obsessed with men, money and marriage. It is to be serialized in *The Observer*.

After the failure of legal moves to prevent publication, by Faber & Faber, Miss Lamplugh's parents have had to settle for a disclaimer in the front of the book, *The Suzy Lamplugh Story*, dissociating themselves from it.

In his statement, Mr Condon, who until recently was deputy assistant commissioner for the Fulham area of west London where Miss Lamplugh disappeared, described her as simply a "modern young woman."

He said: "It is not the policy of the force to make judgements about the lifestyle of victims of crime. However in view of intense publicity and speculation about Suzy Lamplugh and her family we feel honour-bound to say that our investigations revealed nothing more than that Suzy was a modern young woman."

Mr Condon made his statement after consulting the officers in charge of the case. He is said by colleagues to have been concerned to defend her.

The police inquiry, which began in July 1986 when the young estate agent disappeared after showing a client round a house in Fulham, has been run down.

ARCHER'S LATEST HAS A TWIST IN THE TALE.

JEFFREY ARCHER

TWIST IN THE TALE

Hodder & Stoughton Publishers £9.95

BACKWARD THINKING.



There's a rather clever touch on the new Rover Fastback. If your front wipers are switched on and you engage reverse gear the rear wiper automatically clears your view at the back.

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Anger of
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Vicious a
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Librarian

Anger over 'token' payments to some Piper Alpha victims

By David Sapsted

Survivors of the Piper Alpha tragedy, some of whom suffered horrific burns in the oil rig explosion that claimed 167 lives in July, stand to receive only token payments of £3,500 each from the £4.59 million fund set up after the disaster.

In a decision bitterly criticized yesterday, the trustees of the Aberdeen-based fund have decided to devote virtually all the money raised by public subscription to bereaved families.

One of the survivors, unable to work since the explosion, said: "This is a disgraceful decision. Men's lives have been ruined but they stand to get practically nothing from the fund."

Social workers manning the Grampian Helpline, set up in Aberdeen in the wake of the tragedy to provide support for survivors and those bereaved, have become so concerned that they have asked the city's Lord Provost, Mr Robert Robertson, who heads the fund, to think again.

"There seems to be some confusion about the situation. Following our representations, the lord provost has said that individual applications from survivors for disbursements from the fund will be considered if they write in personally," a spokesman said.

"Our advice to survivors, many of whom are facing a difficult period, is to write as soon as possible."

Mr Dennis Wood, deputy director of finance in the lord provost's office, said: "The trustees have decided that distribution of the major part of the fund will be made at the end of this month."

"The trustees obviously consider that the major part of the fund should go to dependants. No further payments are going to be made to survivors at this time."

A total of 63 people survived the disaster, only nine of them employed by Occidental.

Bad weather and a technical hitch have delayed the raising of the seabed tomb of up to 113 men who died in the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster.

The oil company Occidental said yesterday that the raising of Piper Alpha's accommodation section, planned for this weekend, would now take place towards the end of next week.

It blamed a combination of weather and complications with one of the lifting slings.

The accommodation section, the size of a four-storey building, lies 47ft down, near the Piper Alpha platform. It will be raised and taken by barge to sheltered waters in the Orkney Islands to be searched for bodies.

Of the 167 men who died, the bodies of 113 have not yet been found - and most were thought to have been in the accommodation section when the platform exploded on the night of July 6.

The first stage of the lifting operation began yesterday when divers hooked up the accommodation module to a heavy-lift crane vessel. A steel cradle is already in place on the seabed 40 yards away from the accommodation module to accept it for lifting.

The first stage of the operation was for the module to be lifted 15 yards clear of the seabed and placed into position on top of the lifting cradle. But during that process one of the slings developed a "problem" and the module was lowered back on to the seabed.

who survived, face permanent loss of pay unless they are able and willing to return to the North Sea.

An initial payment of £3,500 was made from the

fund but, while the trustees assessed the needs of bereaved families, no further consideration has been given to survivors.

Mr Alan Miller, general secretary of the Professional Divers' Association, described the trustees' decision as "wrong and deplorable" and said the public had donated generously to the fund in the expectation the money would go to all those who had suffered.

"Hopefully, the survivors will receive compensation from the companies they were working for but, by the very nature of the cases, they could take much longer to sort out than insurance claims by families who have lost a breadwinner," he said.

"In the meantime, what are these men meant to do? Many will not be able to face returning to the North Sea and some will simply not be capable of doing so."

"How are they going to find work and what are they going to live on?" Mr Miller asked. Mr Edward Puchard, aged 31, a father of three from Falmouth, Cornwall, has been unable to work since the disaster.

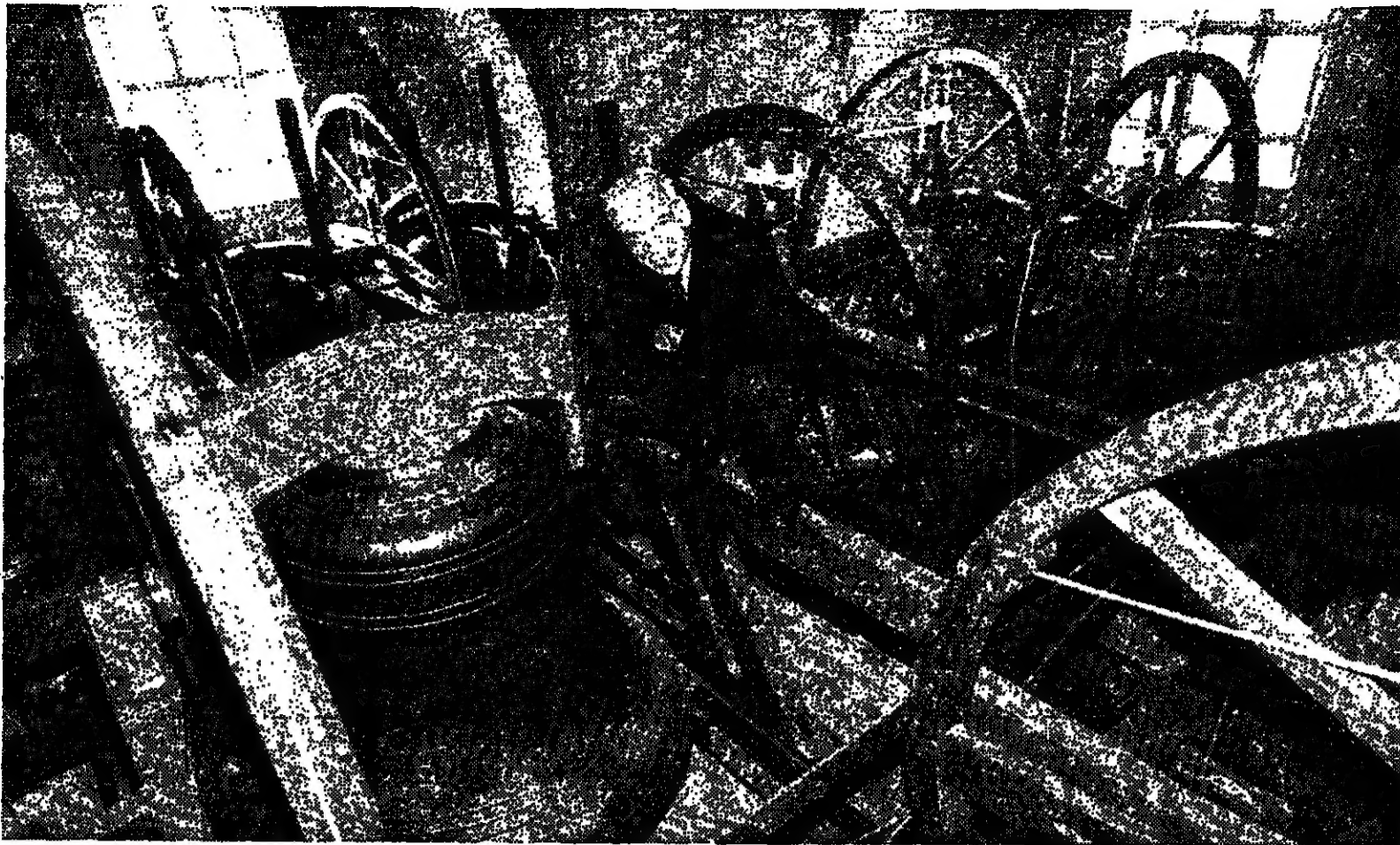
He survived by clambering down a rope dangling from the burning rig and was picked up by a rescue boat only to be forced to throw himself overboard to escape the heat of the second explosion.

"I do not think I will ever be able to return to the North Sea. I fear that at the first flicker of flame I would jump overboard."

"I am broke and fed up, but I am in a better state than many of the other fellows who might never recover either physically or mentally."

"I do not know what some of them will do. They have no money coming in and will not have until, and if, legal wrangles over compensation are sorted out. That could take years."

New bells for old at St Martin's



Dr David Hardwick, church warden at St Martin-in-the-Fields, before a service of inauguration today for a new ring of 13 bells hung in the tower. The 250-year-old ring of 12 heavily worn bells was sent to Perth, Western Australia, after refurbishment to teach the art of English change ringing. In return, metal from Australian mines was shipped to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry for the casting of the new bells. (Photograph: Peter Trifunovic)

Aids phobia

Fear of psychiatric disorders allayed

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Fears of an epidemic of psychiatric disorders from brain damage caused by infection with the Aids virus have been dispelled by the latest research presented at an international conference in London yesterday.

The studies have disclosed a large group of "normal worried well" people who are convinced they have contracted the Aids virus, even though they are not in a recognized risk group. Their anxiety has reached a clinical condition.

Moreover, attempts to reassure them, including the evidence of blood tests showing them to be negative, only

prolongs the problem, according to Dr David Miller, of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in London.

His patients were in general well educated, middle-class men and women whose Aids phobia had put their jobs in jeopardy.

He told 500 delegates attending a meeting on the neuropsychiatric aspect of Aids that the condition of the patients improved only when they could explain their obsession, which was sometimes based on historic sexual guilt, and train themselves from worrying about illness into more positive activities.

Dr Miller described the

knowledge of that group of patients as in the Mastermind class, and the prescribed treatment often included keeping them away from new films and books on the subject.

The impact of being tested for HIV was described by Dr Lawrence Jacobsen from a study in progress of 300 people, who are undergoing six monthly psychiatric analysis and neurological tests.

At the Cornell Medical Centre, in New York, his research showed the subsequent distress for those who discover they are positive, but their emotional recovery, with counselling, takes two to three weeks.

The main evidence against the fear of early brain damage from infection by the Aids virus comes from Edinburgh in studies by a group working with Dr Guy Goodwin, of the Medical Research Council, Brain Metabolism Unit, and the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

The Edinburgh researchers have compared the recordings of brainwave patterns of groups of normal and infected individuals who are both carrying out various tests to assess their memory and manipulative skills.

There was little to choose between them.

NEXT WEEK



PAST WORLDS

Every palaeolithic potato now has a place in history, thanks to modern archaeological methods. Starting next Tuesday, a four-part series fits the jigsaw together. Plus: a competition with prizes worth more than £2,500.

WIN £226,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

There were two winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio competition. Miss Mavis Butterworth, a geologist, of Moxed Road, Birmingham, said she might inherit £2,000. The second winner was from north London.

There is £226,000 to be won in Portfolio Accumulator, or the weekly £8,000 prize. Today's game: Pages 23, 28

Pigsty homes

Converted pig sties in Landmere Lane, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire, are selling fast at £200,000 houses.

Radio operator was rig hero

By Kerry Gill and David Sapsted

The missing Ocean Odyssey radio operator may have stayed aboard the blazing rig to maintain contact with the rescue services long after his 66 workmates had taken to the lifeboats.

Grampian police said last night that other survivors suggested that Mr Timothy Williams, aged 25, originally from Greenhithe, Kent, may have been on board 10 minutes after the first explosion.

He was believed to have kept contact throughout the ordeal with the support vessel Notis County, which played a vital part in the rescue. "He certainly gave regular reports to the ship during the build-up of gas that preceded the explosion," the coastguard said.

One of the final messages picked up from Mr Williams by a nearby oil platform read: "May Day, May Day, May

Day. This rig is on fire...

Mr Williams, who was unmarried, was working on a North Sea rig for the first time. He was on holiday from his Hong Kong job and had taken the radio operator's post to raise money for a holiday flat in Hastings, East Sussex.

He was trained at the Merchant Navy College where senior lecturer, Mr Roger Taylor, said yesterday: "A radio officer must stay at the radio. If he had left, the rig's only communication with the mainland would have gone."

Nobody knows whether Mr Williams did make an effort to get into the sea.

The operation being planned by Red Adair's fire-fighting crew from Texas, to stop gas rushing from the well being drilled by the Ocean

Odyssey, could be among the most complex yet tackled by the team (David Young writes).

They will first have to establish the state of the wellhead left on the seabed using television cameras aboard a remote-controlled ROV submersible. The best they can hope for is that the well can be tamed from the surface.

However, the high pressures and temperature of the gas encountered - the well was at depth of 16,000ft, about 4,000ft beyond where most big oil discoveries have so far been made - would indicate that a relief well may have to be drilled into the same underground structure to ease pressure, allowing hydraulic valves to be used. Such an operation would involve another semi-submersible.

When the father admitted the offence and was genuinely repentant, probation or therapy might be an alternative to prison, she said.

That would spare the child of the further agony of a court appearance.

In some cases, if the protection of the child was ensured, the father might be

Sex abuse fathers 'could stay at home'

By Ruth Gledhill

Prison is not necessarily the right answer for every father who abuses his child, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, chairman of the Cleveland child sex abuse inquiry, said yesterday.

She called for an "urgent" look at alternative means of dealing with child offenders.

Judge Butler-Sloss, addressing the one-day Child Sexual Abuse Conference at the Central Hall in Westminster, London, said a prison sentence could be damaging because children could take the blame on themselves for the abuse.

When the father admitted the offence and was genuinely repentant, probation or therapy might be an alternative to prison, she said.

That would spare the child of the further agony of a court appearance.

In some cases, if the protection of the child was ensured, the father might be

able to stay at home. But in other cases, prison would still be the only option.

Addressing 800 social workers, lawyers and child workers, she said: "We ought at least to explore the possibility of a more radical approach to dealing with the admitted offender in certain circumstances where it could be for the benefit of the child."

"It may perhaps surprise you to hear a lawyer and a judge put these suggestions forward. I think it is worthy at least of thought."

"I certainly do not mean by that that the violent offender should be let off."

"But we ought, in these modern times, at least to look at various approaches to dealing with the offender as well as the child if some other approach might be more beneficial."

She said that "for obvious reasons" she did not take this position in the

inquiry. "But I think it is an area that urgently needs to be explored."

She also urged agencies to "look further at the arrangements for children who may be at risk and who by being removed may become double victims."

"We ought not to make their situation worse in their eyes by our efforts to protect them."

She added: "I feel very strongly about the sort of case where a child is removed on suspicion of abuse, kept away from home for some months, and by the time it comes, as it must inevitably come, to court, it is obvious the child will be going home."

"Doctors and social workers, among other disciplines, need to know more about the legal requirements."

She said lawyers also needed training to deal with child abuse cases.

Vicious attacker gets nine years

A drug dealer was jailed for nine years yesterday for a series of vicious attacks which left one of his victims suffering from broken bones, partial deafness, insomnia and without a job.

Patterson Mark attacked Mr Leonard Smith, aged 61, with a claw hammer after tricking his way into the man's flat in Abinger Grove, Deptford, east London, in April of last year.

Mark, aged 27, of Deptford, also attacked a woman aged 36 and a prison guard, the Central Criminal Court was told. He attacked Mr Smith, a former Grenadier Guardsman and British Telecom executive, after being allowed into the man's flat to call the police about an alleged theft.

Mr David Page, for the prosecution, said Mr Smith did his best to fight off the much younger man, "but was seriously injured".

Mark, who was allegedly high on a mixture of drugs,

tried to stab Mr Smith in the eye with a nail file and then hit him repeatedly over the head with a claw hammer. Mr Smith eventually lost consciousness.

Mr Smith, who was had recently had a hernia operation, suffered multiple bruising, a fractured jaw and eight fractured ribs. He was in hospital for three weeks and now has insomnia. He had to give up his job of 37 years.

Later, Mark stabbed a prison officer in the eye while being taken to Pentonville Prison. He had attacked Linda Dixon 15 minutes before the assault on Mr Smith. She was hit with a wheel brace.

Judge Hayman said Mr Smith would not have been injured so severely had he not put up a struggle.

Afterwards, Mr Smith criticized the judge's comment and the sentence. "I was fighting for my life... he should have got life."

Anaesthetics for babies

MP apologizes for attack

By Anthony Hodges

Sir Bernard Braine, the chairman of the all-party parliamentary Pro-Life Group, has apologized for his criticism of new anaesthesia techniques used during heart surgery on babies. Sir Bernard, who said the techniques were barbarous and unnecessary, has said that he fundamentally misunderstood the work.

His apology comes after letters giving detailed explanations of the trials from Sir John Walton, president of the General Medical Council, and Professor Albert Aynsley-Green, the surgeon who carried out the operations.

Sir John said Sir Bernard's criticisms had been inaccurate and damaging and Professor Aynsley-Green said he had been gravely misled.

Sir Bernard's comments came after publication of an account in the *Lancet* of operations to compare conventional anaesthesia, nitrous



Sir Bernard Braine: misunderstood work.

oxide and curare, with an experimental technique adding Fentanyl, an opiate anaesthetic.

That was prompted by a study in which Professor Aynsley-Green concluded that newborn infants undergoing routine surgery, particularly when receiving nitrous oxide and curare, were experiencing substantial stress.

Fentanyl proved to be a more effective anaesthetic and the work won the Michael Blacow Prize of the British Paediatric Association.

After reading the account in the *Lancet*, Sir Bernard, the Conservative MP for Castle Point, condemned the operations which, he said, had denied the babies painkillers. He and 13 other MPs requested a GMC investigation.

Sir Bernard has made a public apology to Professor Aynsley-Green and his colleagues for his misunderstanding of their work.

He acknowledged that the trials had been aimed at discovering more effective anaesthetics and not, as he had suggested, to test whether the babies could feel pain.

"It is now clear to me that the trials which I criticized, far from being barbarous and unnecessary, have in fact been a valuable contribution to more humane treatment of pre-term infants," he said.

Librarians tear a strip off children's comics

By Robin Young

Roy of the Rovers does not have enough black team-mates; a story in *Girl Monthly* is "totally offensive and sexist"; and "there is nothing positive to say" about *Eagle*, the boys' comic founded in the 1950s by the Rev Marcus Morris, according to a new review of comics and young people's magazines compiled by librarians in the London borough of Camden.

Working in their own time, 26 librarians contributed to the study covering nearly 170 publications, dividing them into those which are recommended and those which are not.

A publication called *Lesbian and Gay Socialist* is recommended as possibly of interest to young people

who wanted to take a political stand, but a spokesman for Camden council, which is controlled by Labour, said yesterday: "Camden does not stock *Lesbian and Gay Socialist* in children's libraries and, in fact, we do not know whether it is still published or not." *Spare Rib*, the feminist magazine, is recommended for girls over 16.

Enid Blyton's *Famous Five Adventure Magazine* is not recommended, because of "sexual stereotyping" and *Beetle* is criticized for failing to take a "multi-cultural view".

The reviewer found *Eagle* to be all "fighting, killing, warmongering and the clichéd desire to conquer the universe", while serious concern was expressed about racism, militarism and violence in war comics aimed at

primary school children. The war comic *Beetle* was cited as showing "the worst examples of the comic genre".

The veteran D C Thomson comics, *Dandy* and *Beano*, which feature Korky the Cat, Desperate Dan and the Bash Street Kids, are half-heartedly approved on the grounds that, though they are guilty of "sexism by omission", it would be "fairly ridiculous" to complain about their portrayal of "a world which never existed anyway".

The reviewer of *Roy of the Rovers* pointed out that with only one black player on the field the comic presented a situation which could only have been paralleled in the first division at the time if Liverpool were playing Everton or Newcastle.

By far the most favourable review in

the survey went to the pop magazine *Smash Hits*, with the critic enthusing over its lively features and off-beat interviews.

"Publications which are not recommended are not banned", Mr John Wilkins, who edited the report, said yesterday. "It is only intended as a guide to what is good and bad on the market. Comics and magazines form a very large part of children's reading and it is important that they should be looked at seriously."

The costs of the report have already been covered by the sale of 25 copies.

Survey of Comics and Magazines for Children and Young People 1988 (The Children's and Young People's Librarian, Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road, London, NW3 3HA, £4.95).

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Statement was given to reporter 'to get him off my back'

TV witness made up his story

A bank clerk admitted yesterday that he made up a story that he saw a man standing with his foot on the body of Sean Savage, pumping shots into the IRA terrorist.

Mr Kenneth Asquez told the inquest in Gibraltar into the shooting by the SAS of three terrorists in March that he made up the statement because he was pestered by a retired major who wanted him to appear on the television programme, "Death on the Rock".

He said that Major Bob Randall pestered him for four days and offered him money to be interviewed.

Mr Asquez denied he was an unidentified man in the programme who said he saw a man standing over the body with his foot on the chest firing into the body. He admitted writing and signing a statement to that effect. "I did it to get him off my back", he told the inquest on the fourteenth day of the hearing.

Questioned by Mr Felix Pizzarello, the coroner, Mr Asquez admitted he was in a car near the scene of the shootings but he did not see much of the incident.

The coroner produced the statement that Mr Asquez, aged 20, made at the end of March, about three weeks after the shootings. It said he heard a number of loud cracks



Mr McGorry, cross-examined Mr Kenneth Asquez.

and saw a man bleeding on the ground. He saw another man wearing a black beret holding an identity card and telling people everything was all right. The man had his foot on the dying man's throat. He pointed his gun and fired two or three times.

Asked by the coroner when and why he made this statement, Mr Asquez said he was very confused, had been ill and was under pressure. Asked where he got the information, he said: "From the newspapers, I suppose". Pressed on the information

about the black beret and the man standing over the body firing, Mr Asquez admitted he made it up.

Mr Asquez, cross-examined by Mr Michael Hucker, counsel for the SAS soldiers, said the major came to see him but he did not know why he wanted to speak about the shootings.

Mr Hucker said: "This was a television interview that turned out to be the programme 'Death on the Rock'".

Mr Asquez said: "Apparently, yes". "Did you agree to give him an interview?"

"No."

Mr Asquez refused to accept suggestions by Mr Patrick McGorry, representing the terrorists' families, that he had blurted out the truth at first but tried to get out of what he said when he realized the consequences.

Asked if he was the kind of man to make up a lying statement that a man murdered another man, he said: "There is truth in it".

Mr McGorry said: "It was a terrible thing for you to do, was it not?"

Mr Asquez replied: "Yes". He told Mr McGorry he did not think that when he was interviewed by Mr Christopher Finch, a local lawyer,

that the solicitor was taking notes.

He told the jury he had not even seen the part of the programme based on his statement and had never been shown the draft affidavit.

Mr John Laws, counsel for the Crown, then asked Mr Asquez if he could offer any explanation why the evidence in Mr Finch's draft affidavit was lifted word for word on the television. Mr Asquez said he could not.

Mr Finch, explaining how he took the statement from Mr Asquez, told the court he was approached by Thames Television shortly after the shootings. "My brief was to take an affidavit from any witness which they came across for the purpose of covering and justifying anything that the programme which they later produced may contain."

The statement was given to Major Randall.

Mr Finch said he took down details from Mr Asquez who made it clear that he did not want to give an interview; neither did he want any publicity. He then produced an affidavit but Mr Asquez refused to sign it.

Mr Finch said Mr Asquez never told him that he was not telling the truth about what he had seen.

"However," he added, "to

my mind Kenneth has never given a formal interview to any television programme."

The coroner asked: "So the person in this 'Death on the Rock' was not Kenneth?"

Mr Finch replied: "I think definitely not".

Asked by Mr Hucker if he felt the affidavit was of no value at all because it was not sworn or signed, Mr Finch replied: "That is correct".

Mr Hucker asked him if he agreed that the unsigned affidavit was a document which put soldiers C and D, two of the SAS team who have given evidence, in a very poor light.

Mr Finch said: "The coroner's officer knew about Mr Asquez's allegations before he (Asquez) came to see me".

Mr Laws asked Mr Finch about the reasons for taking the affidavit. "The purpose was not to discover the truth but to find corroboration for whatever the programme makers might want to say?"

Mr Finch: "That is absolutely untrue".

Mr Finch said he took a sworn affidavit from Mrs Carmen Proetta but not from Mrs Josie Celecia or Mr Stephen Bullock because they had copies of their police statements.

The hearing continues on Monday.



Mrs Proetta: arriving at yesterday's hearing.

Education Reform Act

Experiments 'still possible'

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Teaching practices which ministers had hoped to stamp out with the new Education Reform Act will flourish under its rule, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Peter Mann, principal educational adviser to Dorset County Council, told the annual conference of the National Association of Inspectors and Education Advisers that far from signalling a return to traditional teaching, the Act offered opportunities for continuing experimentation.

His remarks, aimed at reassuring the majority of advisers who endorsed so-called progressive educational approaches, are certain to sound alarm bells both at the Department of Education and Science and in Downing Street.

The Prime Minister feels strongly that the education reform package should lead to a return to traditional methods of teaching.

Mr Mann, speaking in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, said that under the curriculum there would be sufficient flexibility for schools to merge the teaching of traditional subjects and scrap the method of grouping children into classes based on age.

"The Government now has a very powerful incentive,

with the implementation of the Act, to seek the support and goodwill of the teachers. The time for public criticism is over", he said.

With the "skillful mediation" of local authority school inspectors, teachers would come to feel they had "ownership and responsibility for the national curriculum".

In practice, schools and teachers should be able to avoid "a narrow and unproductive concentration" on the three core subjects of the new curriculum - English, mathematics and science.

Mr Mann said the importance of local authority inspectors would increase under the new Act, giving them greater powers to monitor and support teachers and new education initiatives.

● Sir Philip Halsey, the Government's new school examination director, yesterday told the examination boards to go on the offensive and publicize the successes of the GCSE.

He said they could not ignore recent government criticism of complacency but should promote the positive image created by Her Majesty's Inspectorate which praised the effect the exams had had on the performance of pupils and quality of teaching.

Court clerks' pay fight goes to Acas

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

An industrial dispute is brewing in the magistrates' courts service with the breakdown of pay talks by the 1,500 over-stretched clerks who are struggling to staff the courts in England and Wales.

The dispute is to go to Acas, the conciliation service, in a move that indicates the clerks' frustration. They are facing an acute staff shortage with the drain of their members to the more highly paid Crown Prosecution Service and to private practice. As a result, there is widespread cancellation of courts throughout the country.

Mr Ed Bellis, clerk to Farnham justices, said that in October nine or 10 courts had to be closed, 20 per cent of the total.

The Association of Magisterial Officers, which represents the clerks, says it is not prepared to accept the offer of 5.4 per cent made by its Joint Negotiating Committee (consisting of the management side of magistrates and local councilors). Mr Colin Clegg, general secretary of the association, said that this was "barely more than inflation" and ruled out any restructuring of scales to make them more competitive.

"Without a rise of between 8.5 and 10 per cent to redress the balance between our pay and that elsewhere, the service

will collapse. The clerks will leave; they will vote with their feet.

At the same time, the Justices' Clerks' Society, representing the 300 chief clerks in magistrates' courts, has also lodged a substantial pay claim.

Mr Brian Forster, secretary of the society, said his members estimated there were now 100 clerk vacancies throughout the country and court closures were commonplace.

The society has just lodged a pay claim, to come before its Joint Negotiating Committee next week, which could bring justices' clerks - who run the magistrates' courts - to parity with branch crown prosecutors.

It would mean, for example, that a justices' clerk in a division with a population of 160,000 would go from £26,000 to £34,000 and one in a division of 300,000 from about £31,000 to £39,000.

"We need to drag ourselves back to where we were a few years ago, to bring up the service and make the career structure more attractive he said. The magistrates' courts service was now regarded as the "dunghill" of a highly competitive market.

Mr Clegg said: "A court clerk in his thirties on somewhere between £10,000 and £14,000 can be bought by the CPS for £18,000 to £19,000".

Labour seeks inquiry on 'bogus' job figures

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Labour yesterday demanded an independent inquiry into the way the Government calculates the official unemployment and job creation figures.

The call came from Mr Michael Meacher, employment spokesman, after he unveiled the findings of an analysis of official figures which, he said, demonstrated beyond doubt they were "bogus". It showed while official unemployment apparently fell by 724,788 in the two years to March, only 523,000 jobs, including those on employment schemes, were created.

Moreover, the overwhelming majority of those jobs were for women, and most of those were part time. Nearly half a million men had come off the unemployment register and had "simply disappeared into

a black hole", Mr Meacher said. Only in two areas, East Anglia and the South East, excluding London, did the number of jobs created exceed the unemployment fall.

"The Government's success has not been to cut unemployment by creating jobs. Their only success lies in promoting the myth that because registered unemployment is coming down, employment must be going up."

Mr Meacher said the "sheer incredibility" of the figures meant there had to be an independent examination of how they were compiled, possibly by the Commons Select Committee on Employment.

He demanded an explanation from Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment.

'We were dead lucky - the eye of the storm went through the village where we were staying; and if it hadn't been for one of us listening to the BBC World Service and hearing about Gilbert, we'd have been caught,' said a relieved photographer Patrick Lichfield, back at his Staffordshire estate...

... It just goes to show how valuable a tranny is - and thank God for the BBC World Service.'

Daily Mail, Monday, September 19, 1988

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Bush fires Republican hopes of taking Senate

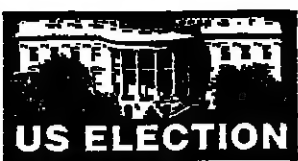
From Michael Binyon
Washington

The turbulence and closeness of the presidential campaign have overshadowed two other crucial races that will determine the shape of the American government in November: the election of all 435 members of the House of Representatives and 33 members — a third — of the Senate.

The Republicans, buoyed by the rising fortunes of Vice-President George Bush in the polls, are hoping that they can recapture the Senate and repeat President Reagan's triumph in 1980 of winning both the White House and sweeping a Republican majority into the upper chamber on his coat-tails.

While the House appears certain to remain in Democratic hands, the 54-46 majority the Democrats won in the Senate in 1986 appears less secure. Three well-known Democrats are retiring this year: Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin, Senator John Stennis of Mississippi — now aged 87 — and Senator Lawton Chiles of Florida. All three seats are vulnerable to a strong Republican challenge.

Two other Democratic incumbents are facing strong opposition: Senator Frank Lautenberg, who is opposed by General Pete Dawkins, a former army general and college football hero, and Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio, who is opposed by a popular former Mayor of



The Senate battleground on November 8

Democrats vulnerable (5)
Frank Lautenberg, New Jersey; Howard Metzenbaum, Ohio; Jeff Bingaman, New Mexico; Quentin Burdick, North Dakota; John Melcher, Montana.

Republicans vulnerable (5)
John Chafee, Rhode Island; Dave Durenberger, Minnesota; Pete Wilson, California; Lowell Weicker, Connecticut; William Roth, Delaware.

Republicans very vulnerable (2)
Chic Hacht, Nevada; David Karnes, Nebraska.

Open seats (3 each)
Florida; Mississippi; Vermont; Virginia; Washington; Wisconsin.

Cleveland, Mr George Voinovich. The Democrats have 18 seats in this year's contest, compared with 15 held by Republicans, who need a net gain of only five to win back their majority.

But several Republican seats are also vulnerable. In Virginia Senator Paul Trible is retiring, and the Democrats have picked Mr Charles Robb, the popular former governor and influential son-in-law of Lyndon Johnson, to fight Mr Trible's successor. Democrats also hope to capture Washington state, where the

Republican Senator Daniel Evans is not running again. They have a longer shot at Vermont, where the Republican Senator Robert Stafford is also retiring.

Two other Republican incumbents struggling to retain their seats are Senator Chic Hacht of Nevada and Senator David Karnes of Nebraska. Mr Karnes is facing a stiff challenge from the popular former Democratic governor, Mr Robert Kerry.

Much of the political attention falls on the Senate races in those states that are crucial to the presidential race — Texas, California, Ohio and New Jersey. In California, where vast sums of money will be spent on campaigning and advertising, Senator Pete Wilson, a Republican, is trying to fend off Mr Leo McCarthy.

Both Vice-President Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis are campaigning flat-out in California, and each is also strongly supporting his party's Senate candidate. But with Mr Bush consolidating his lead there, Senator Wilson appears also to be edging ahead of Mr McCarthy, who is less well organized.

In Ohio, the effort by Mr Dukakis to avoid a liberal label and campaign as a centrist may hurt Senator Howard Metzenbaum, who has one of the most liberal voting records in the state.

In Texas, Senator Lloyd Bentsen was formerly considered invulnerable. But his nomination as the Democratic



President Reagan, on the Republican campaign trail, lining up with the Discovery crew at Houston's Johnson Space Centre.

vice-presidential candidate has forced him, under a quirk of Texan law, to run for both jobs at the same time. Voters' knowledge that he would not take his Senate seat if the Democrats win the White House may weaken his appeal. The Republicans in turn have sharpened their ammunition in Texas, where Mr Bush would dearly love to see the

defeat of the man who once beat him for the Texas Senate seat.

New Jersey is also a state Mr Dukakis must win if he is to win back so-called "Reagan Democrats", the many blue-collar workers who defected to President Reagan in 1980 and 1984. But Mr Bush is also making inroads here, appealing to the working-class and

Hispanic vote, which may influence the outcome of the Senate race.

Senator Lautenberg has run a disorganized campaign so far. He was also sharply attacked by Jewish voters for signing a letter, along with 30 other senators, criticizing the policies of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, earlier this spring.

There are many old faces in the Senate, however, who will have no difficulty in resuming their seats for another six years.

On the Democratic side, there is almost no opposition after able Republicans refused to challenge Senator George Mitchell of Maine, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, Senator Donald

Riegle of Michigan and Senator Jim Sasser of Tennessee. Others who will return are Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Senator Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii and the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

On the Republican side, there is no challenge to Senator John Danforth of Missouri, Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming, Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania and Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana.

Party loyalty does not play a big role in Senate elections, and many voters frequently split their tickets nowadays, especially in the South, where they vote Republican in presidential and Democrat in congressional contests. Good senators who establish a strong local presence are often supported, even if their party affiliation is not popular. Mr Dennis DeConcini, a Democrat in strongly Republican Arizona, is an example.

For this reason, presidential politics may affect the races only marginally, especially as neither Mr Bush nor Mr Dukakis have big coat-tails. Indeed, many Republicans have kept a marked distance from Mr Bush, while identifying themselves closely instead with President Reagan.

The economy is likely to be the main issue in Senate contests, but local issues can also determine the outcome.

Dilemma for Turkey

Fate casts former oppressor in role of Kurds' saviour

By Michael Dynes

With a foreign debt of over \$22 billion, inflation running at 78 per cent, almost a fifth of the workforce unemployed, and an election near, the last thing Turkey needs is a resurgence of Kurdish nationalism.

But with the arrival in south-eastern Turkey of between 50,000 and 80,000 Kurds, fleeing the clouds of toxic gas allegedly used by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq in a last-ditch attempt to rid Baghdad of its troublesome warrior tribesmen, the Government is bracing itself for the worst.

By a perverse quirk of history, the Turkish authorities in Ankara, who have fought to stamp out every vestige of Kurdish nationalism within their borders since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, have been cast reluctantly into the role of protector of the Kurdish people.

According to Mr William Hale, a specialist in Turkish

battle-trained troops north in an attempt to build a *cordon sanitaire* around northern Iraq and to cut off the Kurds from external support. All the signs are that the Kurds have received a terrible punishment," he said.

But for political and economic reasons, Turkey has been forced to walk a delicate diplomatic tightrope and to play down allegations of Iraqi genocide against Kurds.

The most immediate problem facing Ankara is to find the estimated £166 million needed to feed, house and attend to the medical needs of the Iraqi Kurds in the five or so temporary settlement camps.

Last week Mr Ozal made a public appeal for international help to resettle at least half of the Iraqi Kurds in Western countries, but privately he must know the chances of success are slim.

More serious than housing the unwelcome guests, Mr Ozal now faces the prospect of an alliance between the Kurdish Workers' Party, fighting for an autonomous Kurdistan, and the Iraqi Peshmarga guerrillas, Mr Hale believes.

Mr Jalal Talabani, Secretary-General of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has already declared his intention of continuing the struggle against Baghdad from Turkey, and will be looking for support from the Workers' Party.

Turkey has ignored calls by President Saddam to close its border with Iraq, largely because it is physically impossible. But there is another reason. "Ankara does not want to appear to be taking sides in the Gulf conflict. That could sabotage the peace talks and deprive Turkey of desperately needed income from the Iraqi and Iranian postwar reconstruction programmes," Mr Hale said.

Mr Ozal's decision to grant sanctuary to the Iraqi Kurds appears to have won widespread approval in Turkey. But it is unlikely to help significantly his chances of winning the forthcoming referendum on advancing the election from March to November, thus depriving the opposition of time to exploit fully his economic woes.

Seoul's gold gives Ozal political plus

From Rasit Gurdilek
Ankara

Turkey's first Olympic gold medal for 20 years has caused the threat of a political crisis over Sunday's referendum to recede.

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, had threatened to withdraw from politics unless the referendum showed a majority of voters in favour of advancing the local elections to November.

National attention has now focused, however, on Naim Süleymanoğlu, 21, who broke a world record in winning a weight-lifting gold medal and has become a national hero. Mr Süleymanoğlu was symbolically "adopted" by Mr Ozal when Bulgaria 21 months ago.

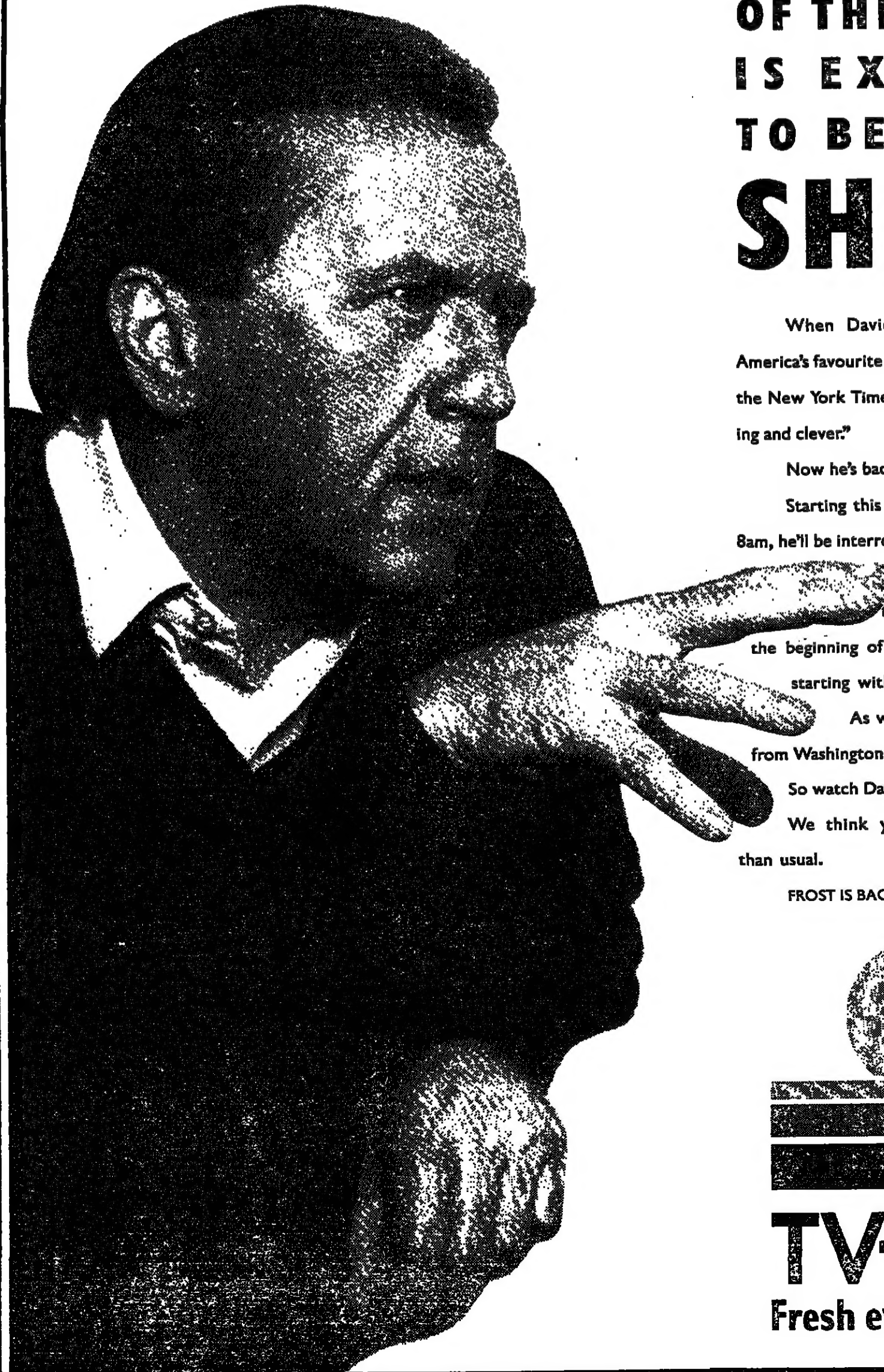
Turkey's biggest-selling



newspaper reported Süleymanoğlu as saying from Seoul that he would be chagrined to see his "father ... to whom I owe my success" leave politics.

Mr Ozal has sent his own aircraft to bring the Olympic star home to a hero's welcome that will be conveniently close to the referendum.

The opposition has turned the poll into a vote of confidence in the Prime Minister.



THE FIRST FROST OF THE AUTUMN IS EXPECTED TO BE RATHER SHARP

When David Frost was guest host on America's favourite breakfast programme recently, the New York Times called him "refreshing, amusing and clever."

Now he's back on TV-am.

Starting this Sunday at the earlier time of 8am, he'll be interrogating the week's newsmakers.

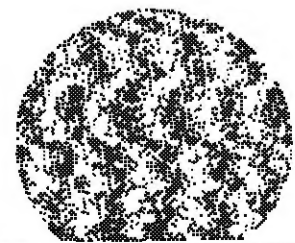
And he'll be talking to the main political leaders at the beginning of the party conference season, starting with Paddy Ashdown of the SLD.

As well as presenting live reports from Washington and Seoul.

So watch David Frost on Sunday.

We think you'll find it's even sharper than usual.

FROST IS BACK. 8AM SUNDAY.



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Black and blue line

50 police are beaten up every day of the year

HERO COP SHOT

He tackled bank gang

★ ★

DAILY EXPRESS Friday April 8 1988

FIFTY police officers were attacked every day last year in England and Wales, a shock new report revealed yesterday.

The thin blue line of law and order became black and blue as assaults on police soared by 20 per cent

Notting Hill, a notorious trouble spot.

The West Midlands force was third in the "violence league" with 1,236 assaults on officers - a figure described by Deputy Chief Constable Les Sharp as "horrendous."

Superintendent Martin Burton, of the West Midlands, said that many of the assaults happened

★ ★ ★ ★ SL

THE SUN, Wednesday, June 29, 1988

WPC BEATEN SENSELESS AS 60 CHEER

By PAUL HOOPER

A YOUNG policewoman was beaten senseless in a vicious attack by a mindless mob of 60 stood by - and cheered.

She was KICKED and PUNCHED by the mob, one man SPAT in her face and another called her an "old slag."

and to add insult to injury...

Ban on police smokes

SMOKING became a criminal offence today as far as some policemen were concerned. They are now banned from lighting up at their stations and in patrol cars.

More than 400 police, traffic wardens and civil

Serge
figure
in new

Tibet riots

China p
to crush

It is October 1988. The Chinese government has announced that it will crack down on the "democratic movement" in Tibet. The government says that the movement is a threat to the stability of the country and that it will take all necessary measures to suppress it. The government also says that it will not tolerate any foreign interference in Tibet's internal affairs.

The police have been ordered to crack down on the "democratic movement" in Tibet. The police are to be strict in enforcing the law and to take all necessary measures to suppress the movement. The police are also to be strict in enforcing the law and to take all necessary measures to suppress the movement.

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After the bricks, bottles and bullets, shouldn't the police be spared the attentions of the anti-smoking lobby?
SUPPORTING THE SMOKER'S SIDE OF THE ARGUMENT. TOBACCO ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Sergeant outranks figurehead general in new Haiti regime

From Alan Tomlinson, Port-au-Prince

Soldiers and non-commissioned officers in the Haitian Army appear to have consolidated their hold on power after Saturday's palace coup.

It is also becoming apparent that the man chosen by the rebels to lead the country, General Prosper Avril, has little authority beyond carrying out the wishes of his mutinous troops.

Members of a left-wing political delegation which had talks with the Government said the general appeared to be running things jointly with the real leader of the coup, a semi-literate Medical Corps soldier, Sergeant Joseph Habreux, aged 27.

"We found them together. They take decisions together. Avril is a member of a permanent working Cabinet with Habreux at his side," a delegation spokesman said.

Foreign diplomats here describe the relationship between the two as one of necessity. Sergeant Habreux has the confidence of the mutineers, but he lacks General Avril's political astuteness and also his administrative knowledge.

"This is a fairy-tale coup.

They are idealists," said one Haitian analyst. "They are idealists without an ideology, and with no idea how to carry this through."

The tense and fragile alliance between the general and the sergeant appears to have the support of most politicians in the country.

"We know Prosper Avril is part of the old regime, but as long as he marches with the soldiers we have no problem with him," Mr Jean Mesyere, a union activist, said.

"They presented him to us as a defender of the soldiers' movement," said Mr Evans Paul, leader of the left-wing Confederation for Democratic Unity, which was invited to the palace to discuss a request by the Government to call off a demonstration supporting the coup because of security fears. "They need him."

Western diplomats agree. "They really have no choice," explained one European envoy. "There was no obvious political leader to place in charge. They had to go with someone they knew."

"Avril may be an old Duvalierist. He is even said to be looking after the interests of

the Duvaliers in exile. He is certainly one of the richest men in Haiti. And yet he seems to have the confidence of the men."

The mutineers have retired or discharged much of the old military High Command. The other prominent exception is Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, the popular commander of the feared Dessalines Battalion, who is wanted in the United States on drug-trafficking charges.

The group which met the Government said assurances were given of the profoundly reformist nature of the new regime and its determination to "systematically clean out" the armed forces of all the members of the Duvalierist militia known as the Tontons Macoute.

The group appealed to the Haitian people to organize themselves in support of the coup and to accept the choice of General Avril as a practical necessity.

A coalition of the four centrist politicians who were front-runners in last year's abortive presidential elections also issued a statement supporting the coup.



Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, right, wanted by the United States for alleged drug trafficking, chatting to a soldier as he leaves army headquarters in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

Hawke signals Nazi round-up

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

Suspected Nazi war criminals, who have been living in Australia for more than 40 years, are to face prosecution as a result of a dossier compiled by a government special investigation force.

Working under top security conditions, the task force, headed by Mr Bob Greenwood, QC, has established that up to 500 war crime suspects are now living in Australia.

At least 12 are suspected of mass murder, torturing and executing prisoners of war, and terrorizing civilians.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said in Canberra yesterday: "There are people who appear to have been guilty not just of marginal crimes but of quite horrendous atrocities."

The authorities plan to arrest suspects within the next few weeks. It is understood that several are prominent members of Australia's ethnic communities, escaping from Europe immediately after the war to join 170,000 immigrants to Australia.

None of the suspects has been informed of the investigation into their past. But Mr Greenwood says that all will be formally notified and given the opportunity to make a statement before being charged.

Under the amended War Crimes Act of 1945, prosecu-

tions would be heard in Australia's Supreme Court before a jury, since the Government wishes to avoid any impression of show trials.

Welcoming the decision to unmask Nazis, Mr Isi Liebler of the Jewish community, commented: "Symbolically history requires a recognition that people who indulged in these terrible crimes should not be allowed to live their lives out among us as normal human beings. It's not an issue

The Duchess of York arrived in Sydney yesterday five days ahead of an official tour of Australia. The Duke of York will join her from HMS Edinburgh, which is lying off Sydney, on Sunday.

of vengeance, it's an issue of justice."

The trials are likely to be lengthy and the Government is bracing itself for an emotional debate. Some ethnic communities are already expressing unease over prosecutions which they say could become persecutions.

There is also controversy because the state prosecutor will rely on evidence from the Soviet Union.

First, however, the Australian Government has to pass legislation under which those convicted will face up to 25 years imprisonment.

Tibet riots anniversary

China prepared to crush unrest

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

If on October 1, China's National Day, memories are the only things which are active in Tibet, China's leaders will be extremely relieved. Last year it was a question of bullets and stones.

As travellers returning from Tibet report an increased police watch on the Buddhist temples, both the Peking and Lhasa authorities appear aware of the strength of feeling which will be aroused by the anniversary of the popular uprising in Tibet.

Since the riots hardly any foreign journalists have been allowed into the region. But not even China's leaders are pretending that the problem has gone away, recognizing the "long-term nature" of the struggle and tightening security accordingly.

The picture which emerges from Tibet is one of a people

During these riots, and those which followed last March, hundreds are estimated to have been killed and hundreds more arrested.

Last month a visiting US senator, Mr Patrick Leahy, was told by the Lhasa authorities that only about 25 of those originally detained remained in prison. But no reliable figures are available.

China claims to have a historical right to rule Tibet but it is to the Dalai Lama, exiled in India, that the majority of Tibetans look for guidance. The riots were blamed by Peking on agitation by foreign supporters of the Dalai Lama.

Since then both sides have suggested compromise. China said the Dalai Lama could live in Tibet if he gave up his separatist goals. For his part, the Dalai Lama proposed a "semi-independent" Tibet, which China has rejected and which would be regarded anyway by Tibet extremists as a sell-out.

While condemning the Dalai Lama's foreign speeches on human rights abuses in Tibet, Peking maintains Tibet has benefited from being absorbed into China and that standards of education, medicine and culture have been raised. However, the destruction of temples during the Cultural Revolution is uppermost in many Tibetans' minds.

Tibet's secondary spiritual leader, the Panchen Lama, who is also a government official, has blamed the riots on the "leftist" policies the Chinese have implemented in Tibet. Moreover, he made it quite clear that the Chinese authorities were split between those who argued for restraint in dealing with the rioters and those who wanted to subdue them quickly.

While China has given much media coverage to the amount of money it is spending on repairing old monasteries and reprinting ancient Tibetan texts, it lost no time in setting up a special detachment of armed police to handle what Lhasa radio described as "sudden incidents" and deal "resolute blows to separatists". Peking is well prepared for whatever may occur in Lhasa.

Delhi (AFP) — China has called for the first time for direct talks with the Dalai Lama and asked him to choose a venue.

A spokesman at the Chinese Embassy here said yesterday that the offer had been made earlier this month to a representative of the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in India, but there had been no response so far. The embassy ruled out foreign involvement in the talks, and said that the idea of Tibet's independence would not be discussed.

desperate for freedom from what they believe to be Chinese oppression.

On September 7, 30 nuns protesting outside the Jokang temple were led away. Just how many similar protests have taken place since the second wave of riots in March is not known.

A British group led by Lord Ennals who visited Tibet earlier this year said they found a pattern of human rights abuses and fear. They talked in terms of a "reign of terror" and Lord Ennals estimated that about 2,000 Tibetans were still missing after widespread arrests and torture.

The riots a year ago came after several thousand Tibetans, including monks, demonstrated against what they saw as Chinese occupation and the destruction of their culture.

Israel polio alert

Jerusalem — The Israeli Health Ministry has ordered the inoculation of 250,000 civilians and all serving soldiers after an outbreak of polio. Twelve cases have been diagnosed. The outbreak has been traced to poor sewage disposal in the Hadera and Ramle-Lod districts in the centre of the country. Sewage samples elsewhere are being sampled.

Lawyer sues

Nairobi (AFP) — Mr Gibson Kuria, a lawyer, awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, says he will sue the Kenyan Government for the return of his passport so he can travel to collect his prize.

Incomes deal

Helsinki (Reuters) — Finnish unions have signed a deal that will limit wage increases to 1 per cent for a year in return for tax cuts of 1.5 per cent.

Activist held

Panama City (Reuters) — Police arrested Señor Alberto Conte, an active opponent of the Noriega regime, accusing him of "threatening state security".

Prisoners free

Tripoli (AFP) — Libya has freed 214 prisoners from its conflict with Chad at a ceremony witnessed by diplomats, and said another 65 prisoners are to be released.

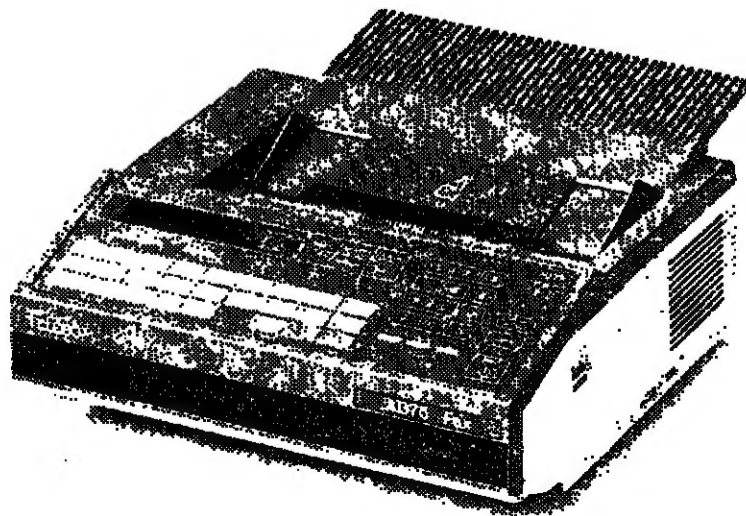
Drug sentence

Mexico City (AFP) — A Mexican drug-runner has been jailed for 34 years for kidnapping a US agent, while a member of the same gang has been convicted in Los Angeles of the agent's murder.

Alpine crash

Grenoble (Reuters) — A French high-speed train hit a lorry stalled at a level crossing in the Alps, killing the train driver and injuring 35 passengers.

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TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Seoul I do hope nobody missed the astonishing boxing fracas this week in which a dozen or more Korean officials piled into the ring to beat up the referee after a Korean had, quite justifiably, lost a fight. It was as if boxing was parodying itself. A security guard, who is meant to prevent such incidents, was seen to kick the poor ref in the head — and he was still on duty later in the day. The losing boxer staged a 67-minute sit-in in protest, to no avail.

Well, if you're half a pace in the wrong, go the whole hog and outface the world. Here's the Korean Times: "Korean bantamweight Byun Jong-il fought two men — his opponent, a Bulgarian boxer, and the referee. Unfair judging should be challenged. . . . The referee from New Zealand, clearly favouring the Bulgarian boxer, forced Byun to lose his attack rhythm by stopping the fight and serving cautions. . . . Korean officials and home fans had the right to be angry with the judges' unilateral way of managing the fight. Behind the incident is the fact that the chief of the Seoul Olympic boxing is a Bulgarian." You know, for a moment, I thought there might have been something a little embarrassing about the incident.

Memo to Mrs Thatcher: here is how a politician ought to treat a success — full athlete. Naim Sulymonoglu, the Turkish gold medal weightlifter ("the pocket Hercules") and long-time hero of this column, will go home in the private jet of the Turkish prime minister, Turgut Ozal. When he gets there, he will be given a flat worth £30,000 and a car worth £6,000. Every month, he will receive £6,000 for the rest of his life. I'm sure Mrs Thatcher could spare a jet and a pension for Adrian Moorhouse and Malcolm Cooper. They've earned it.

This column's award for athletic dedication goes to Mike Evans, an American water polo player. He's a former Mormon missionary to Venezuela, and while on his mission he kept in training by ploughing up and down a local river. It was pointed out to him by startled Venezuelans that the river was full of piranha fish. Evans, perhaps muttering "Oh, really?", continued to plough into the river every day. A gold medal for lunacy is the least he deserves.

One of Korea's little specialties is forged brand-name clothes and watches. ("They won't know any different in the pub," said an Englishman with a fake Rolex.) Landlord, a pint for my friend with the green wrist. Officials are strict about the regulations against exposing brand names to the cameras. Many competitors have bought forged Fila shirts, which have two designer marks to show how prestigious they are. The regulations allow only one brand name per item, so people are walking about in forged Fila shirts with one mark taped over. A British judge, Bryan Willis, wore his shirt inside out.

BARRY FANTONI



"If you ask me, it's British FIVE remaining riot in Brixton that warrant an apology"

Words from a female American athlete attending her third Olympics: "You can't be Daley Thomson. Daley Thomson is fat — I've seen him on television." A pity that she was speaking to was Daley Thomson, with I could report that Daley's sense of humour was up to the occasion.

The mother of Ben "The Human Bullet" Johnson came to town to see her boy make his assault on the 100 metres gold medal. I don't know how much of it she saw. Gloria Johnson went from Toronto to Rome to watch her son run in the World Athletic Championships last year, and didn't see him run a stride. "I closed my eyes," she said. "I said a prayer. The gun went off and it was over. I didn't see it, but I knew he won." She saw the race later on a recording, but she is still sometimes too nervous to watch the video. As for Johnson, he said before the event: "I'm going to do it for my Mum."

Just because I'm in Seoul doesn't mean I have lost touch with reality. I can reveal that, come the New Year, you will be able to buy an entire album of football songs. If you felt queasy with songs like "Blue is the colour, football is the game" or "World Cup Willy," then this is the album to make you throw up.

It will be called 4-2-4 (geddit?) and will have 20 of the "best" songs in the genre. Mike Alway of El Records is masterminding the project. "I found out the other day that even Hartlepool have made a record," he said. "What on earth have they got to celebrate?" He has tracked down more than 100 records, including three by Leyton Orient. Quality? "You don't apply normal musical criteria to this sort of record," he said. "The best come from the classic period of songs like 'Nice One, Cyril'."

Let me warn those of delicate sensibilities against listening to: "Viva El Fulham!" (by Aston Villa); and "Come on you Brentford!" Worst of the lot, by a goodish margin, is a song from Fisher Athletic of the GM Vauxhall Conference. It is called "Come on the Fish" and is "sung" by David Slater, Fisher Athletic's bank manager.

Paddy Ashdown's victory in the SLD leadership election puts him firmly in the driving seat, and he can probably do pretty much as he wishes with the party at its Blackpool conference starting today, but only at a price.

Leaders of established parties can warn about "bumpy rides" and view with equanimity the possibility of some members falling off the vehicle en route. A new party needs to take more care, particularly when it languishes in the polls and has manifestly failed, so far, to inspire a majority of its component parties' former members to participate.

Paddy Ashdown will need all his diplomatic skills if he is to keep present members on board and motivate them to hear in others. Recent reports that a number of SLD MPs are far from being wholehearted followers are an indication of the seriousness of the problem.

He needs to pay particular attention to those Liberals who have been engaged for years in the rough task of fighting Labour in its strongholds. Many of these colleagues are among the most disenchanted with the new party, which they see as continuing the Alliance trend away from the radical cutting edge that enabled them to make real political and

electoral headway, even in huge wards in big cities.

On the face of it the new leader should have an immediate rapport with these colleagues. One of the few issues to divide him from Alan Beith during their campaigns for the party leadership was the new party's immediate and long-term strategy. Ashdown believed that the SLD should replace Labour as the alternative government to the Conservatives.

Under questioning, his perception of the means of achieving this was less clear, relying on the assertion that we had already replaced Labour in more than 200 seats where we are currently second to the Conservatives. But the task is to develop a party capable of defeating Labour in the 200 seats it now holds, otherwise, paradoxically, one actually replaces the Conservatives while professing to tackle Labour.

It is not always appreciated how much weaker the new party

is in the inner cities compared with the Liberal Party of 15 years ago. Indeed, in a number of cities, such as Hull, Birmingham, Bradford and Manchester, our representation is lower than that of the Liberals in 1963. And seats won in the Labour heartlands of Sheffield, Birkenhead and Newcastle disappeared many years ago.

Most significantly of all, Liverpool Liberals have maintained their strength on their city council by replacing the Tories. Most of the many inner wards won from Labour in the 1970s have reverted, but these have been so consistently replaced by victories in the suburbs that there are now only two Conservative councillors on a council they controlled until 1972.

The only bright spots are in London, where there were only seven inner-city Liberal councillors in 1962 compared with the widespread representation today, including control of

Tower Hamlets. However, it only wants the anti-Labour "London effect" to be diminished and these seats will also become vulnerable.

Labour's so-called strongholds will be gained only with local commitment and dedication and a national image consistent with local activity. The greatest challenge is to find and inspire self-starters in Labour areas.

Unlike new products, sold through highly expensive advertising campaigns, political parties rely on cadres of dedicated, active members. The lack of an identifiable set of values, as epitomized by a value-free name, prevents the recruitment of such crucial individuals. Political realism demands that the party's name be changed. Neither SLD nor Democrat is saleable in areas that suffered Labour's brand of social democracy for decades and which have a residual attachment to Liberalism, nurtured over decades.

I sometimes think that those who promote the interminable bureaucratic demands of the present party constitution can have no idea of the problems people face in Labour areas.

The potential Liberal Party officer or candidate for a ward of up to 18,000 people may well be a single parent without a telephone, a car or possibly even a bank account.

The basic assumptions of the constitution, with its ballots and paper work, are essentially middle-class. The national membership system assumes the cheque-book society rather than the regular collector on the doorstep. Although I am talking of a minority of constituencies, they are the most important if we are to replace Labour.

Newness is fine if there is no tradition, but, as in many cities, I am surrounded by Liberal clubs whose presence reinforces the name. Each year another Liberal club contemplates changing its

name, usually for economic reasons; it is difficult to argue for keeping the name when the party itself has diluted it so much.

When one comes across someone of like mind, what does one now ask? "Are you SLD?" Or: "Are you a Democrat?" Neither is accurate or resonant. One of my local Liberal clubs — in addition to the usual penalties for actions that harm the club — can expel a member who "ceases to be a Liberal" or is "guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Liberal Party." We have no chance of building on such robust traditions while the present party rubrics remain in force.

The Alliance years have been difficult in our areas and Paddy Ashdown does not have the luxury of time if we are to win local government elections in 1990 and the general election thereafter.

The name change is needed at this conference. We can replace Labour anywhere so long as we do not have to fight with both hands tied behind our back. If the description "Liberal Democrat" is important for the party leader in his Yeovil constituency it is certainly as important everywhere else.

The author was formerly Liberal MP for Leeds West.

Michael Meadowcroft sends a message to the SLD conference

Bring back the Liberals

Philip Howard

Vindolanda's open window

British nationalists, Joan Bulls from Bowditch to the Prime Minister on a safe round Europe, see Britain as the centre of the civilized world. The latest on Ancient Britons, as reported in *The Times* yesterday, gives the alternative, continental view of Britain as the boondocks, expressed early by Virgil, "The Brits pretty well isolated from the whole of the rest of the world," and repeated with un-

persuasive monotony ever since. The latest finds and interpretations from Chesterholm (aka Vindolanda to continentalists) in Northumberland adhere to this weird foreign view of Britain as cold, wet, remote, uncivilized, and phallic. It is Britain as seen today through the eyes of the owners of a Chinese take-away in darkest Ayrshire, coping with the local accents and staring incredulously out at the wall of solid Scotch mist.

The Vindolanda writing tablets are of extraordinary importance and interest. They are the earliest reports of everyday life in Britain, concerned not with great men and earth-shaking events, but ordinary people in a little military village in the north, away on the world's rim, leading unexceptional lives 18 centuries ago. They are our earliest written roots.

The first of these Vindolanda writing-tablets was discovered in March, 1973, by the archaeologist and Roman historian Robin Birley, while he was excavating in a deep trench at the south-west corner of the third-century fort at Vindolanda. He found "two small thin fragments of wood which looked rather like oily plane shavings."

These slivers, when gently pried apart, proved to contain writing on their inner faces, but this rapidly began to fade on exposure to the air. They came from an earlier fort and *Vicus* (a civilian settlement that grew up beside a fort) from the early years of the Roman occupation, before Hadrian's Wall was built, an otherwise black hole in British history.

Vindolanda lies on the Stanegate Roman road, off our modern B6318, just south of Hadrian's Wall, and about half way along it, two and a half miles

west of Housesteads. It was not a big strategic centre compared to Coria (probably Corbridge) or Pons Aelius (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); more the size of Caerboron (Catterick) where the latest letter-writer has some ox hides: "I would already have fetched them but I didn't want to cause difficulties for the mules as the roads are bad." It was an auxiliary fort, i.e. for provincial, non-Italian troops, usually cavalry, posted for a tour of duty on the northern frontier.

In the past 15 years several hundred writing tablets have been found, preserved in a rubbish dump by the most conspicuous feature of the local climate, the wet. Not many other parts of the Roman Empire were wet enough to preserve writing in wood, as opposed to writing inscribed on stone or inscribed on wax. There are many more tablets to come. We are gradually building up a detailed picture of life for the ordinary soldier and the native Brit in an unremarkable outpost of empire. It is a unique record because it is not about Caesars but Everyman.

The tablets show that the garrison consisted at times of the Eighth Cohort of Batavians and the First Cohort of Tungrians. The Batavians were a Germanic people from the mouth of the Rhine, whose name is preserved in the Dutch district of Betuwe. They were famous horsemen who served in the Roman army under their own chiefs from the middle of the 1st century AD and were often found in the personal bodyguard of emperors. The Tungrians came from northern Gaul, near the modern Liège.

In 83AD near the battle of Mons Graupius (almost certainly by Auchinchove on the Moray Firth) hung in the balance, the Roman general Agricola sent in his Batavians and Tungrians. He told them to bring their sword to the point and hand-to-hand fighting, a manoeuvre familiar to them from long service, and embarrassing to the British, whose shields were too short and swords too long. "For the British swords, without points, did not allow them to fight in locked scum-



mage lines at close quarters." The Vindolanda garrison had been in the occupying army from the beginning. It is their documents at Vindolanda that are gradually piecing together our picture of life in Ancient Britain. It is hard to exaggerate the importance of the information the tablets give about Roman army organization, about clothing and diet, about the private, everyday concerns of the ordinary soldier — quite apart from the light they throw on handwriting and the nuances of grammar and syntax. One of them refers to *Britiunculi* — "little Brits."

Many of the tablets are letters of recommendation and introductions. The latest batch contains a number of formal applications to go on leave. This seems to have been a popular activity, with Corbridge, the Athens of the North, a favourite destination. At one stage, of the 750-strong cohort only 270 men were on station at Vindolanda, and a tenth of those were sick.

Others are personal letters: "I have sent you . . . pairs of socks from Sarnia two pairs of sandals and two pairs of underpants (*subligamentum*). Others are official accounts, including lists of food-

stuffs, confirming the deplorably heavy eating habits in the North to keep out the cold: barley, goat's meat, young pig, ham, and venison, washed down by beer and wine, both good quality and plonk. "The first point of my letter is to hope that you are fit and well. A friend has sent me 50 oysters from Cordouan." Other letters refer to the purchase of despatch of clothing, including socks (*udones*).

Most of the letters can be dated to between 95 and 105 AD, a period of British history that until now has been virtually blank. We know from the tablets

that the commanding officer of the Batavians at one point was Flavius Cerialis, and that a CO of the Tungrians was called Crispinus. Some of the latest tablets include an inventory of furniture and fittings of the sort that COs of British Army units still hand over and get their successors to sign. At Vindolanda they itemized things down to the last salt cellar and vinegar bowl. One explanation of the hoard of documents is that at some stage, for some reason, the files of the CO's quarters were shredded into a rubbish dump. One letter makes reference to a

trip to Rome, remarkable and moving to find in this furthest boundary of the empire. There is a rare example of a letter between two Roman women, presumably the wives of senior officers. In it Flavia Severa invites Lepidina to her birthday party.

Remember that these auxiliary Dutchmen had been naturalized Roman citizens for only a generation. Yet here they are, up in the sticks, writing contemporary idiomatic Latin, quoting Virgil and evidently teaching their children Virgil in the garrison school. The multitude and variety of different hands implies that it was not just the officer class and professional scribes who could write. There are at least 600 different hands on the Vindolanda tablets. It was a highly literate society.

The written record is the unique and still promising feature of Vindolanda. But the waterlogged conditions of these old pits in the North preserved wool and leather as well as wooden tablets. The leatherware includes a perfect apron-pouch for tools, large fragments of clothing, part of a tent-piece, and notably a huge collection of Roman shoes, including a superb lady's slipper, complete with maker's name. Up at Vindolanda they needed not just gumboots and green wellies, but shoes from the early equivalent of Gucci and Lobb's.

About 70 per cent of the leather goods have the touch of metropolitan craftsmen, while the rest were probably made on site. Three shoes found so far have the maker's stamp, and came from high-class *haute couture* establishments.

It may have been the chilly extremity of the civilized world. But up in Vindolanda they had a sauna, and flush lavatories, and central heating, and baths, and a hotel for visitors. After the Romans went home, and the little Brits broke off their continental connection, it took us many centuries to recover the standard of living of our not-so-remote forefathers. Only about 8 per cent of the Vindolanda site has been excavated. More surprises wait to be unearthed.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

As unsafe as houses

Washington In the New York suburb of Yonkers, a vicious dispute has been going on between city officials and a federal judge over the location of council flats. The good burghers of Yonkers say they are not racists for opposing the construction of housing for the poor, mostly black, in their mostly white, middle-class neighbourhood. They say their real concern is property values. Actually, I believe them. Or at least, I find it plausible.

According to one Yonkers estate agent, a three-bedroom house bought for between \$18,000 and \$30,000 in the mid-1950s would sell for ten times as much today. For these homeowners, this unexpected bonanza is their nest egg. (Nationally, the home represents about 65 per cent of the average person's net worth.)

If the estate agent is right, the proposed public housing might knock 10 per cent — \$25,000 or so — off the price of nearby houses. Thus the real significance of the Yonkers episode may be to illustrate again how American society is being twisted and torn by the enormous increase in property prices.

There are signs, however, that property may be heading for a crash. The same is true in Britain, I gather, but the effect would be felt more deeply in America, where more people own their homes (60 per cent of the population). Nationally, house prices are barely rising. The average price of an existing home rose 3.7 per cent during the year ending in July. That is

less than the rate of inflation.

The main reason to think a crash might be coming is the huge gap between the cost of owning a house and the cost of renting one. For two decades, house prices have gone up twice as fast as rents. A four-bedroom house in a sought-after Washington suburb might cost \$300,000 (up from \$400,000 last year). That house can be rented for \$2,400 a month. Adding rates to mortgage payments, the cost of buying a house in Washington is more than double the cost of renting one.

Why would someone pay twice as much to live in the same house? Yes, there are tax benefits, but not nearly enough to explain the differential. The romance of home ownership may be part of it. However, the main reason is clearly the belief that prices will keep going up. When today's price is simply a bet that tomorrow's price will be even higher, you have a classic speculative bubble.

As investors in pyramid schemes throughout the ages have learned — and as stock market investors were reminded last year — the "greater fool" theory cannot be right for ever.

Of course, people have been saying this about property for years. And in the United States, as in southern England, they have been wrong — so far. What evidence is there that this time things are different? First, there is today's price slowdown, coming at a time when the economy is buoyant and interest rates are relatively low. A market that counts on future increases to

support today's prices can turn a slowdown into a rout pretty quickly.

Second, there is the recent tax reform, which reduced tax rates, thereby making mortgage tax rebates less valuable. This increases the after-tax cost of home ownership — a fact that is just beginning to sink in.

Third, there are 28 per cent more houses on the market than a year ago. That's ominous. Comstock Partners, a New York financial firm that is spreading the property crash scare, advises homeowners to sell and rent. I certainly lack the courage to take this advice. (The only person I know who has acted on the belief that the market has peaked is a Londoner.)

But if even a few homeowners become persuaded that prices are about to topple, then they will be right: prices will topple. A property crash would be far more traumatic than the stock market crash. Not only do people have more invested in their houses than in stocks, but that investment is heavily leveraged through mortgages. A 25 per cent fall in prices (which Houston has already suffered) would wipe out many homeowners' entire investment.

No one knows to what extent the consumer boom of recent years has been fed by people's belief that their houses were making them rich. A property nose-dive might easily lead to the recession the stock market crash did not.

On the other hand a decline in house prices, if not a crash, would be a healthy development.

Who would really be harmed? Not young people who have yet to buy a home. In 1950, it cost 14 per cent of the average 30-year-old's income to buy an average-priced home. Today it costs 44 per cent. At those levels, many do not even qualify for a mortgage.

The percentage of young home-owners has dropped dramatically. Most people who already own homes are either going to live in them for many more years or trade up. Regional variations may affect them, but in general the houses they sell and the houses they buy will go up or down together.

The group hurt by a downturn in house prices would be older people selling their last house. But they are likely to have bought for a small fraction of today's prices. It's rough justice if they make a smaller profit and home ownership becomes more affordable for young people.

The bloated prices of existing houses may make the owners feel rich, but they add nothing to the nation's wealth. A house is exactly the same house after it doubles in "value".

In fact, as my favourite economist, Henry George, pointed out a century ago, inflated land values make the economy less efficient. They operate like a tax on the truly productive factors, labour and capital. Housing inflation has depressed our economy, frenzied our psyches, divided our society. A turn-round would be nerve wracking, but no bad thing.

The author is Editor of *New Republic*.

SEPT 24 ON THIS DAY 1918

Turkish rule in Palestine was ended by the last great cavalry action of the First World War, the 5th Cavalry Division advancing 500 miles in five weeks' fighting.

CAVALRY COMES INTO ITS OWN

Brilliant Charges

(From W. T. Massey)

Palestine Headquarters General Allenby has crushed the Turkish 7th and 8th Armies, his cavalry has closed every exit except one, which cannot be reached by many of the enemy, and in a wide encircling movement the horsemen have brilliantly broken down all attempts to put up delaying rearguard fights. The cavalry have captured Nazareth, Shechem, Beit and Jenin. They had one charge on the Plain of Armageddon and another at Jenin, and secured an enormous quantity of valuable booty. And we have not heard the last of their efforts.

Once the infantry had broken through the southern defences the cavalry had great opportunities, while the infantry has continued to display superb skill and endurance in driving the enemy from the hills between the Plain of Sharon and the Judean plateau. The cavalry movements, which were perfectly timed, have been a triumphant success, and they showed unflinching regularity in fulfilling the plans laid down by the Staff. British Yeomanry, Australian Light Horse, Indian cavalry, all in magnificent condition and a high state of training, have performed a task almost without parallel in this

war. Critics who declared that the day of cavalry is over must hide their heads. The utter defeat of the Turkish Palestine Army would not have been possible but for General Allenby's bold use of the cavalry. Their part in this extremely important battle will probably take a leading place in the military text-books.

Directly the Londoners and the Indian infantry had carried the three lines of trenches on the sea coast early on Thursday, the Yeomanry and the Indian cavalry moved up the seashore at a gallop, crossed the Nahr el-Fik, swept north, and got over the Nahr el-Kenderun, collecting 750 prisoners on the way. After sundown they advanced north-east, left the low ground, and got into the hills east of Mount Carmel and rode over the Plain of Esdraelon. At sunrise yesterday they climbed the hill on which Nazareth stands, and there met considerable opposition. They surrounded the town, which was taken during the morning with 2,300 prisoners, including many German telegraphists, mechanics, and other technical troops.

A regiment of Indian Lancers, acting as advance guard, had the opportunity which all cavalry desire. A Turkish battalion was lightly dug in on the flat, about two miles from the entrance to the pass. The Lancers dashed out of the narrow defile, extended, galloped over the Plain of Armageddon, and crashed into the infantry machine-gunners with the lance, killing 80, and wounding many more. They also took 410 prisoners. The charge was most brilliantly executed. The cavalry had to gallop over exposed ground against a heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, but never faltered, each wave of horsemen riding through the enemy. Those who were not killed threw up their hands and surrendered.



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SERIOUS QUESTIONS

When Thames Television's *Death on the Rock* was shown in April, the immediate controversy centred on whether or not the film was liable to prejudice the inquest into the deaths of three IRA terrorists. At the time, the atmosphere was rife with cynical speculation that the inquest would be postponed indefinitely, that the British authorities might not take part and — most widely alleged of all — that the IRA terrorists were killed as part of deliberate "shoot-to-kill" policy.

The inquest is taking place. The SAS men have testified. The evidence has slowly stripped away assumption and allegation, leaving a simpler pattern of evidence and a good deal less melodramatic story than the film-makers alleged.

But yesterday saw a significant change of gear. The coroner's court heard a witness who — as the documentary-makers themselves might put it — raised "serious questions" about the way in which the film was conceived and made in the first place.

Mr Kenneth Asquez, a 20-year old bank clerk, did this in the course of demolishing his own "evidence" about a soldier who had put his foot on a terrorist's chest before firing into him at point-blank range. This was a fiction dreamt up, it now appears, to relieve himself of the nuisance of being pestered by people assisting Thames Television.

He had been near the scene of the shooting but had not seen it. Hints were dropped that money would be paid in exchange for his "statement".

He did not sign his largely imaginary account. His words were read out on the film, introduced as follows: "Also wishing to protect his identity, he has given a detailed statement to a lawyer representing *This Week*." This phrasing clearly implies that the statement was signed and that the signatory would stand by what he had written.

In truth it was neither signed nor would the hapless Mr Asquez stand by it — as the first policeman to interview him quickly discovered. The introduction attempts, quite spuriously, to clothe a piece of fantasy, which the programme makers must have known had not been signed as a considered statement, with the solemn authority of legal process.

The Thames Television executive responsible for the film yesterday denied that money had been offered to witnesses or that Mr Asquez had been put under any pressure. He implied that the film had contributed information and witnesses to the inquest which would

not otherwise have been found by the Gibraltar police.

That is not an adequate defence. The responsibility of the media is not defined by the extent to which it helps the police find witnesses but by the integrity with which it attempts to establish and publish the truth.

In the general terms of the media's public interest obligations, journalists should inquire into matters which are also the subject of official inquiry and they should be prepared to encounter official hostility when they do so. But nothing can justify the treatment of evidence as it emerged yesterday.

Death on the Rock argued that the coroner's inquest would be preferable. If journalists challenge a forensic or police procedure, they impose on themselves an obligation to apply some forensic rigour to their own findings.

It would be hard to imagine less rigorous filters than those apparently passed through by Mr Asquez's "statement" en route to being broadcast. Mr Asquez's allegations of harassment and offers of money must also be considered.

A television company priding itself on its reputation for authoritative current affairs is accountable to the public in two ways: formally to the Independent Broadcasting Authority and informally to its audience. The story told by Mr Asquez, whose own behaviour was weak and stupid, may not tell the whole story about the circumstances in which his evidence was given. The only way in which that story will be told is if Thames Television mount the severest internal inquiry of its own.

A company sensitive to the concerns of its audience should be prepared to do so before any such action is requested by the IBA. Failing that, the IBA should conduct its own inquiry. In either case, the maximum amount of information should be made public.

Media organisations which fall under suspicion can often be rightly criticized for putting up the shutters under fire. Journalism which advocates further penetrating inquiries by official bodies needs to be ready to apply its own prescription to itself.

The BBC, which not too long ago reacted to the mere hint of criticism with hysterical denial, has gone some way towards demonstrating its own awareness that it is accountable. There is no reason for the independent television companies to lag behind.

LETTERS OF ART

The publication in *The Times* this week of the early letters of T. S. Eliot is a lesson in just how difficult it is to bring together the private human being and the public artist. The life is a fascination for being messy, bewildering and unpredictable. The art, in contrast, is hard and clear.

Eliot the man seems on occasions so baffled by life that he becomes an object of pity to his friends and of scorn to his less sympathetic contemporaries. Yet Eliot the writer so rose above the mundane circumstances of his existence that he turned them into the very material of his poetry.

This disparity between the art and the life is often used as a stick with which to beat the artist. Quite recently it has been suggested that Picasso is not a great painter because he was not a great man. There has always been a temptation among those of philistine or puritan temper to expose the deficiencies in an artist's life in order to attack the art itself.

Such an attack can easily be launched upon Eliot (his alleged anti-Semitism being an obvious example) but these early letters, written at the time when he was composing *The Waste Land* and during a period when his literary criticism was about to bring a revolution in academic studies, suggest that the link between the art and the life is far too subtle to admit of such pedestrian interpretations.

Eliot was not necessarily a good man because he wrote good poetry, nor necessarily a better man because he wrote religious poetry, nor necessarily a wiser man because he wrote philosophical poetry. There were many occasions when he was less humane, less sensitive, less moral than anything he wrote.

This would be a matter for the biographer or critic alone, perhaps, if it were not for its bearing upon the teaching of English literature in our schools and universities. The essential point is that the most powerful lyric gift, the most profound capacity for moral or philosophical discourse, the most serious dramatic expression, can spring from someone who as a human being is necessarily flawed, generally uncertain and often unheroic.

No one is ever better for writing good poetry; but, more importantly no one is ever better for reading it. This needs saying all the more

firmly at a time when the teaching of literature has become fatally obscured by the various social, political and moral "truths" which are supposed to emerge from it.

As a young student, Eliot detested the formless nature of a conventional literary education. There is no doubt that any teaching which raised the modish standards of "self-expression" or "social significance" at the expense of any understanding of grammar, syntax or construction would have met with his disapproval. What kind of an education is it at the end of which a student can write confidently that *The Waste Land* represented the despair of civilization but cannot explain the subjunctive or recognize a split infinitive?

It is fortuitous that we have published these letters in a significant week for British relations with its continental partners. The young Eliot came to England in search of that elusive cultural entity which he called "Europe". This was not a pious or over-optimistic pursuit. For him, as for many of his contemporaries, there was indeed such a thing as Europe, representing a common culture based upon classical antiquity.

His notion of Europe was one in which literary, religious and philosophical activities were all broadly in accord with one another because they derived from a common source. The idea of a single language was less important than the ideas of order, discipline and authority. Europe for him was not simply a political or social grouping but something larger than both. It was a congregation of ideas and values.

During the years which marked this first volume of letters, he began to see that unity disappear. His political authoritarianism — which is one of his prime appeals to the English conservative tradition — was in part a response to the threat of that disintegration.

The real measure of Eliot's importance is to be found in the manner with which he tried to justify and to reinforce that common culture even as it began to disappear. Perhaps his work represents the shoring of fragments only; and yet he pushed European culture together by an act of will, giving it a shape and context which is still an inspiration.

SPIRITED OLYMPICS

The first week in Seoul has been a success — both for Britain, and for the Olympic spirit. Top-class sport has been played in top-class facilities. The people of Korea can be especially commended for their skills in dealing with 250,000 tourists, 13,000 competitors and officials and more than 10,000 journalists.

Long-term planning has meant that many of the problems encountered at other Games have been avoided. Large sums of money turn out to have been spent by the Korean Government on manpower. Unlike Los Angeles, which committed itself to run the Games at a profit, Seoul is going for a high political profile and the good will for business in the longer-term.

Not everything has been perfect. The crowds have sometimes been disappointingly small. Athletics, the centre-piece, began yesterday in what the experienced American Ed Moses felt was to describe as "chaos". Athletes and spectators suffered from the absence of information, proper facilities and coordination. The Koreans or at least a tiny minority of

them, are also squarely to blame for the brawl that broke out at the boxing when the judges' decision went against a home favourite. But none of these incidents can disturb the overall impression of joy at the Games — the joy personified at the opening ceremony by Sohn Kee Chung, 52 years after the Berlin Olympics in which he won the marathon as a Korean forced to compete under the flag of Japan.

The highlights of the sport itself have come from the elegant Soviet gymnast, Elena Shushunova, the awesome Turkish weightlifter, Naim Suleymanoglu, and from the apparently so effortless power of the American sprinter, Carl Lewis. The spirit has never been better caught than in the camaraderie of the modern pentathlon and the equestrian three-day event. Britain's exploits, particularly the gold medals of Adrian Moorhouse in swimming and Malcolm Cooper in shooting, have brought satisfaction and excitement.

Much can happen before the Olympic flame is extinguished. For the moment, Korea can enjoy the thanks and applause of the rest of the world.

Shortcomings in accident service

From Mr I. D. Anderson

Sir, Your reports (September 20 and 23) on the King's Fund review of *The Nation's Health* make more than a passing mention to deaths from injury. This is disappointing but not surprising: accidental injury is a neglected but common cause of mortality and morbidity. Indeed, accidental injury is the third commonest cause of death, after heart disease and cancer.

Since Professor Alwyn Smith and his colleagues began their report it has become clear that shortcomings in our accident services result in at least 2,000 potentially preventable deaths from injury every year. While avoidable death from any cause is an unacceptable waste of life, those resulting from accidental injury are particularly tragic.

Accidental injury differs from the other leading causes of death in several important respects. First, injury predominantly afflicts the young and each death therefore results in a relatively greater number of lost years of life. Secondly, heart disease and cancer are both chronic conditions which are seldom completely cured, while accidental injury tends to occur in the healthy and active. Successful treatment of an accidental injury frequently returns the individual to complete health.

It is unclear why the British public continue to tolerate the current inadequate practice of treating major injury in the nearest hospital. Similar deficiencies in trauma care existed in the United States and West Germany and were remedied by the treatment of most major injury in specialised hospitals known as trauma centres.

Reorganisation of accident services involved capital outlay but was rewarded by precipitous falls in the number of preventable deaths. In these countries the return to productive employment of young and otherwise healthy members of the populace has more than reimbursed the initial cost of establishing an acceptable system for the treatment of serious injury.

The annual cost of injury from road traffic accidents in the United Kingdom is £4 billion. The establishment of trauma centres would go some way toward reducing this burden on the taxpayer. Professor Smith was correct in stating that the United Kingdom is falling behind in health provision. Accidental injury is undoubtedly one field where worthwhile improvement can be made in preventing unnecessary death and disability. Yours faithfully, I. D. ANDERSON, 4 Old Hall Lane, Worsley, Manchester 28. September 23.

Glory of the Garden

From the General Director of the Royal Opera House

Sir, It is difficult for the Royal Opera House, while litigation proceeds, to respond to critics (September 22) of the present scheme to provide the facilities we desperately need, but I can state authoritatively that what we build will not only equip the House adequately for the 21st century but also, thanks to an imaginative architect, Jeremy Dixon, markedly enhance the beauty and amenity of the Covent Garden area.

Yours sincerely, JEREMY DIXON, General Director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2. September 22.

Noise insulation

From Mr Peter Wotton

Sir, Mr Bryan Montgomery (September 19) suggests that high standards of sound insulation applied to houses near to large airports would allow the abolition of night-flying restrictions.

The greatest demand at airports occurs during the summer-time when most people like to sleep with their windows open. Would Mr Montgomery explain how insulation can help in those circumstances? Maybe by "sophisticated and highly-efficient" insulation he means ear plugs.

Yours faithfully, PETER WOTTON, Syroco, 19A Queensway, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.

Sacked midwife

From the Director for Professional Conduct, UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

Sir, The Reverend Dr Carpenter's letter (September 21) might lead your readers to believe that there was only one matter that was before the committee and for which Miss Jilly Rosser was removed from our professional register. There were, in fact, four charges that were proved and considered to be misconduct in a professional sense.

These were that the midwife failed to make adequate records of observations and care given; that, following a deterioration in her patient's condition, she failed to call the emergency obstetric unit or a registered medical practitioner; that she failed to carry out such examinations and observations as were necessary to ascertain the cause of the deterioration; and that, when the patient was in a collapsed or semi-

In yesterday's leading article on Lebanon Mr Sulaiman Franjeh, a Maronite Christian, was wrongly described as a Muslim.

Television portrait of Henry Moore

From Sir Stephen Spender

Sir, Any of your readers in a position to be interviewed by ICA Television for a biographical programme about a dead artist should be warned of the dangers by the example of England's Henry Moore shown yesterday on Channel 4 (review, September 22).

This consisted of fragments selected with prejudice from interviews with Henry Moore's friends and colleagues and interpolated into a tendentious collage of political history in order to illustrate the director's (Anthony Barnett) thesis that Henry Moore abandoned the value of his working-class origins and of his early work as a carver in stone and wood. It was argued that in becoming a sculptor in bronze Moore exploited the monetary value in art, whilst in moving to socially among the rich and famous he betrayed and forsook his Yorkshire origins.

This thesis I find repulsive and demonstrably untrue, nowhere more so than in the implication that Henry Moore's friendship with Kenneth Clark was for reasons of snobbery and attraction to wealth. The friendship was in fact of great affection and esteem on both sides, a sustained meeting of artistic, intelligent minds.

Henry's devoted reminiscences of Clark, of Herbert Read and of his own father were the dominant themes of my last visit to him. He did not move up or indeed anywhere, socially, he valued friends, and not their wealth or fame. At Perry Green, his lifestyle, his loyalties and his complete dedication to his work remained unaltered over 40 years.

It is not made clear, in my short remark which opens the programme, that Henry was patriotically proud, not of his personal wealth, but of being told that he was England's best individual financial crisis.

Contributors to a film like this, organised by the ICA, must be aware that they may be quoted out of context. But I doubt whether many of those interviewed would have agreed to participate in this programme if its thesis (which their contributions are supposed to uphold) had been explained to them; or if they had been told that

the programme would contain no example from Henry Moore's own many recorded interviews, quotations from which would have proved his irrefutable defence.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN SPENDER, 15 Loudoun Road, St John's Wood, NW8. September 22.

From Sir Robert Sainsbury

Sir, As one of the few surviving friends and admirers of the unknown Henry Moore whose work I started to buy in 1933, I must protest at Channel 4's denigration for purely political ends of a great artist. Its message, that Moore was a money-grubbing social climber is monstrously untrue and disgusting.

When, in 1933, I bought Moore's great carving, *Mother and Child*, which can now be seen in the Sainsbury Centre at the University of East Anglia, for £160, this sum was half Moore's income for the year. It was only in the late forties, when Moore was 50-years-old, that he started to sell and although his earnings rose rapidly, his life style never changed. He and his wife Irene, with their daughter Mary, continued to live in the greatest simplicity at Much Hadham. As he grew older, Moore was naturally over-come, at times, by the growing adulation of so many and was, I think, pressurised to produce too many bronzes.

The fact that in the opinion of many, myself included, that Moore's later bronzes showed a very considerable falling off, in no way alters his stature as a carver and it will be in this capacity that he will be judged by posterity and judged, I believe, as one of the two or three greatest sculptors of the century.

The film does not mention that the proceeds of all these later sales enabled him to set up the Moore Foundation. The income of these millions are to be spent to help young struggling artists and the arts in general. It seems somewhat ironic that some of this money should have been spent to diminish the man and his work. Yours faithfully, ROBERT SAINSBURY, 5 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1.

Gravel workings

From the President of the Sand and Gravel Association Ltd

Sir, The letter of Mr Sandell (September 20), in which he roundly condemns the Department of the Environment's new guidelines for regulating the provision of land for minerals extraction, entirely ignores two essential factors.

The first is that if our country needs houses, factories, hospitals, schools and roads it needs aggregates.

Secondly, if the need is admitted, some attempt has to be made to assess that need and make proper provision for it, and in doing so the demands of individual counties have to be considered. Hertfordshire is a significant user of aggregates and should therefore make some provision to meet at least part of its own needs.

There is no doubt that in the short term gravel workings are a scene of disturbance, but as the

members of our association have demonstrated, rapid return to agriculture is possible. Of even greater significance today, however, are the opportunities to create leisure or conservation interests, and of the latter a prime example exists at Amwell, in Mr Sandell's own county.

The industry has played a constructive role in the preparation of the guidelines, but it has not attempted to dominate the process; the consultation procedures include participation of all bodies with a genuine interest and, if anything, other organisations have tended to outnumber those representing the industry.

In short, the Department of the Environment should be congratulated for producing the guidelines rather than taking the unrealistic view of Mr Sandell. Yours faithfully, T. HIGGINS, President, Sand and Gravel Association Ltd, 1 Bramber Court, 2 Bramber Road, WTA.

Hirohito criticism

From Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Sir, Your report (September 23) of the Japanese Ambassador's protest against the offensive articles which appeared in *The Sun* and *The Star* about His Majesty the Emperor of Japan omitted two important points.

The first is that the majority of responsible people in Britain would dissociate themselves from these unchristian and unworthy comments on a dying man. Secondly, the articles are based on a false understanding of the position of the Japanese sovereign. He has never had autocratic power and has had to accept the recommendations of his ministers and advisers.

If he had attempted to protest publicly against the war his views would have been suppressed and he would have been removed from the scene. His decision in 1945 to support the surrender was an act of courage at a time when his advisers were divided. Yours faithfully, HUGH CORTAZZI (Ambassador to Japan, 1980-84), Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd, 100 Wood Street, EC2.

Language barrier

From Sir Robert Sanders

Sir, Mr Terry Mughan (Business and Finance, September 17) is right in drawing attention to the need for us to acquire and exploit linguistic skills. But is he justified in referring to "the bad habits of our colonial past?"

All over the Empire, collectors, district commissioners and district officers were fluent speakers of languages like Hindi, Urdu, Hausa, Swahili, Malay, Mandarin, Fijian, Gilbertese and others.

Nor was this a purely superficial knowledge. Many of the first grammars and dictionaries of those languages were compiled by such officers. Nor should the sterling work of British missionaries in this field be overlooked.

So it can be done and it has been done. Here is an aspect of our colonial past which is one of pride, inspiration and emulation. Yours faithfully, ROBERT SANDERS, Greystones Lodge, Broich Terrace, Crieff, Perthshire. September 19.

the purpose by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Advocate and the Lord Chief Justice in Northern Ireland. There is nothing secret about the council's functions. Nor is the council secretive about its professional conduct committee hearings, all of which take place in public.

I can well understand that Dr Carpenter, having been a character witness on behalf of Miss Rosser, is disappointed by the committee's decision. Miss Rosser has been informed that, in common with any other nurse, midwife or health visitor who feels aggrieved by a decision to remove his or her name from the professional register, she has the right of appeal to the High Court.

Yours faithfully, R. H. PYNE, Director for Professional Conduct, United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, 23 Portland Place, W1. September 22.

Until the postal backlog is cleared letters to the Editor may be sent to a temporary fax number, (01) 782 5064.

Legal obstacles along the path

From Mr Brian Rich

Sir, Both your editorial, "Forgive them their trespasses", and Alan Frank's "Outdoor Leisure" article on the closure, obstruction and diversion of public rights of way (September 17) approached the issue only from the point of view of a "leisure facility".

Rights of way are part of our heritage; they do not appear in the landscape by accident. All have some reason for their existence. At the least a path can have a local purpose and be a route for villagers to get to work. At the most it can be along a prehistoric route or Roman road. The loss or diversion of a right of way can therefore mean the disappearance of part of our heritage.

Two years ago, walking in Gloucestershire, I found that a right of way one mile to the north-west of Coln St Aldwyns was lost in fields which had been totally planted with cereal crops. It was only possible to regain the original route by walking round the edges of the fields. This right of way is part of the Anglo-Saxon Salt Way from Droitwich to Lechlade, where salt would be loaded on boats and taken to London along the Thames.

Such a diversion confuses the local feeling for a right of way as part of an historic heritage and eventually destroys it.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN RICH, 11 Adams Grove, Leek, Staffordshire. September 19.

From Mr C. L. Loyd
Sir, Your recent leading article suggests there is now less accessible countryside. I believe there is more and that many landowners and farmers are trying to assist this process.

It is, however, wrong to rely on existing footpaths as a means of providing access to the countryside. Originally footpaths were laid out to link parishes and satisfy local needs. Today many of those using footpaths come in cars and these people need car parks with a different arrangement of footpaths.

Associations of ramblers are, you report, rallying to protest; but instead of demonstrations of resentment landowners and farmers should be encouraged to provide car parks and new footpaths. Some of the existing footpaths could then be surrendered. Yours faithfully, C. L. LOYD, Lockinge, Wantage, Oxfordshire. September 18.

From Mrs Una Carter
Sir, If the area of accessible countryside is allowed to shrink, still further we will all be the poorer, as you say; but I suspect that the ancient footpaths were not put there for ramblers, but by, and for, labourers to walk to work.

I live alone, in the country, and am unable to drive. What I wish is that I could walk safely from my village to the next along the road; that is to say, that there could be far more miles of pavement alongside "our" country roads. This would satisfy the need for which the ancient footpaths must first have come into being.

Yours faithfully, UNA CARTER, Edington, Wiltshire. September 17.

Pollution from above

From Mrs Hilary Beck-Burridge

Sir, Much has been written about the noxious effect of automotive exhaust gases on forests and under pressure the industry is putting their house in order — e.g., by fitting catalytic converters; but far too little has been said about aviation exhaust.

An enormous amount of fuel is burned daily along the main aviation corridors, many of which pass over the Alpine regions of Germany, Switzerland, France and Italy where there is great damage. Recent surveys show that 50-55 per cent of trees in Switzerland are damaged, the majority in mountain areas where there are few roads. Acid rain no doubt accounts for some of this damage.

To my knowledge, no Government is pressing the aviation industry to clean up their emissions, self-interest possibly holding them back because the majority of European airlines are state-owned. Perhaps this letter will encourage the airlines and aircraft manufacturers to break the deafening silence on this matter.

Yours faithfully, HILARY BECK-BURRIDGE, Arlanza Cottage, Crocker End, Nettleden, Oxfordshire. September 14.

Passing rich

From Mr Nicholas S. Hughes

Sir, Wealth and covetousness (Mr Bernard Levin's article, September 15, Dr Weinkove's letter, September 20) were put in perspective in Waterford recently. The proprietor of a betting shop, on his way to a wedding, resplendent in top hat and tails, popped into his establishment to check on the takings. As he left in his Rolls-Royce one skint gambler remarked to his companion, "Isn't he a credit to us". Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS HUGHES, Tiburon, Tivoli, Cork, Republic of Ireland. September 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

O Lord God of hosts, who is strong
Lord like unto thee? To thy faith-
fulness round about thee?
Psalm 99:8

BIRTHS

DADDS - On September 23rd, 1988 at
Harold Wood Hospital to Sarah Jane
(Twinning) and Martin, a daughter.
Hannah Rosa, sister for Rachel
Elizabeth.

DRICKSON - On September 19th, at St
James, Oxford to a son, Alexander
Charles Robert.

ELLIOTT - On September 20th, to
Emma (née Oxford) and Michael, a
daughter, Emma Rose.

GAZZON - On September 17th, at St
Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to
Gemma (née Nicholls) and Christo-
pher, a son, Christopher James.

GRIFFITHS - On September 14th, 1988
to Mary (née Abbott) and David, a
daughter, Mary Jane.

MARRIS - On September 12th, to
Penny (née Chester) and Nick, a
daughter, Penny Rose.

LANTON - On September 22nd, to
Bridget (née Chayon) and Richard, a
son, William Patrick.

MARRAGE - On September 16th,
1988, at Parsonage Hospital, Kent,
to Christine (née Foster) and
Stewart, a son, Andrew John.

MARRIS - On September 14th, 1988,
Angela (née Hickling) and a sister
for Douglas.

MORROW - On September 22nd, to
Bridget (née O'Shaughnessy) and
James, a daughter, Emma Jane.

THOMAS - On September 20th, 1988,
Paula (née Neri) and Christopher, a
daughter, Francesca.

PATTON - On September 21st, to
Rose and Owen, a son.

POLLARD - On September 21st, to
Derryn (née Holmes) and Philip, a
daughter, Anna Derryn.

ROWLAND - On September 20th, 1988,
at Birmingham Maternity Hospital,
Florence Elizabeth.

SEAL - On September 17th, in New
York to Peter (née Garter) and John,
a daughter, Frances Lucy.

WATERHOUSE-MUSE - On September
18th, 1988, in Arizona to David and
Celia, a daughter, Ardena Grace.

MARRIAGES

WIGGINGTON - On Saturday,
September 17th, 1988, at St
Mary's Church, Heston-on-Thames,
Reception was held at the Lander
Club, a son.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BROOKSBOROUGH - On September
24th, 1988, Cyril to Anne, at Church
of St. Mary, Heston-on-Thames.
Reception at 18 Orchard Place,
Leigh.

DEATHS

BEWELL - On September 23rd, at St.
Leonard's-on-Sea, Kent, Patricia
aged 68, late surviving son of
Sergeant Major R.C. Thomas, Captain
in the Royal Air Force, died at
10.10am, followed by burial.
Flowers and wreaths to A.C.
Thomas, 14, Forest Drive, 14,
Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex, Tel. 04243 43558.

CANTLEY - On September 20th, in
London, John, aged 88, late of
Wimbledon, died at home.
Burial at St. Mary's Church, Putney.
Flowers and wreaths to Mrs. Cantley,
14, Weymouth Road, Putney, London
SW15, Tel. 0703 43558.

COLVIN - On September 23rd, at home,
Diane Mary Colvin in her 81st year.
Funeral service at St. Mary's Church,
London SW15, on Thursday
September 25th at 2.30pm. No flowers.
Donations if desired to
Macmillan Nurses.

BUCKHAM - On September 22nd,
1988, at home, Mrs. Mary
Elizabeth Buckham, aged 88, late of
Buckham, Bucks. Burial at St. Mary's
Church, London SW15, on Thursday
September 25th at 2.30pm. No flowers.
Donations if desired to
Macmillan Nurses.

DRICKSON - On September 19th, at St
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WALKER - On September 23rd, 1988
at home, Mrs. Mary Walker, aged 88,
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Life below the subsurface

A small advertisement in the United
States Department of Commerce
seeking seems to point to a
remarkable scientific discovery.

The text of the advertisement
seeks "industry interested in
biological isolates from the sub-
surface".

These cryptic words actually
announce the astonishing
discovery of communities of
bacteria living a thousand feet
below the surface of the Earth,
where no life was thought
possible.

The conventional scientific
wisdom is that life extends little
deeper than the roots of plants.
After all, the argument goes,
how could any living creature
find to eat deep down in dark
rock? But samples taken from
four deep bore holes drilled at
the US Department of Energy's
Savannah River Laboratory show
conventional wisdom to be
wrong.

More than 3,000 different
kinds of bacteria have so far
been discovered, some from
depths as great as a thousand
feet below the surface. And
virtually all bacteria seem to
be new to science.

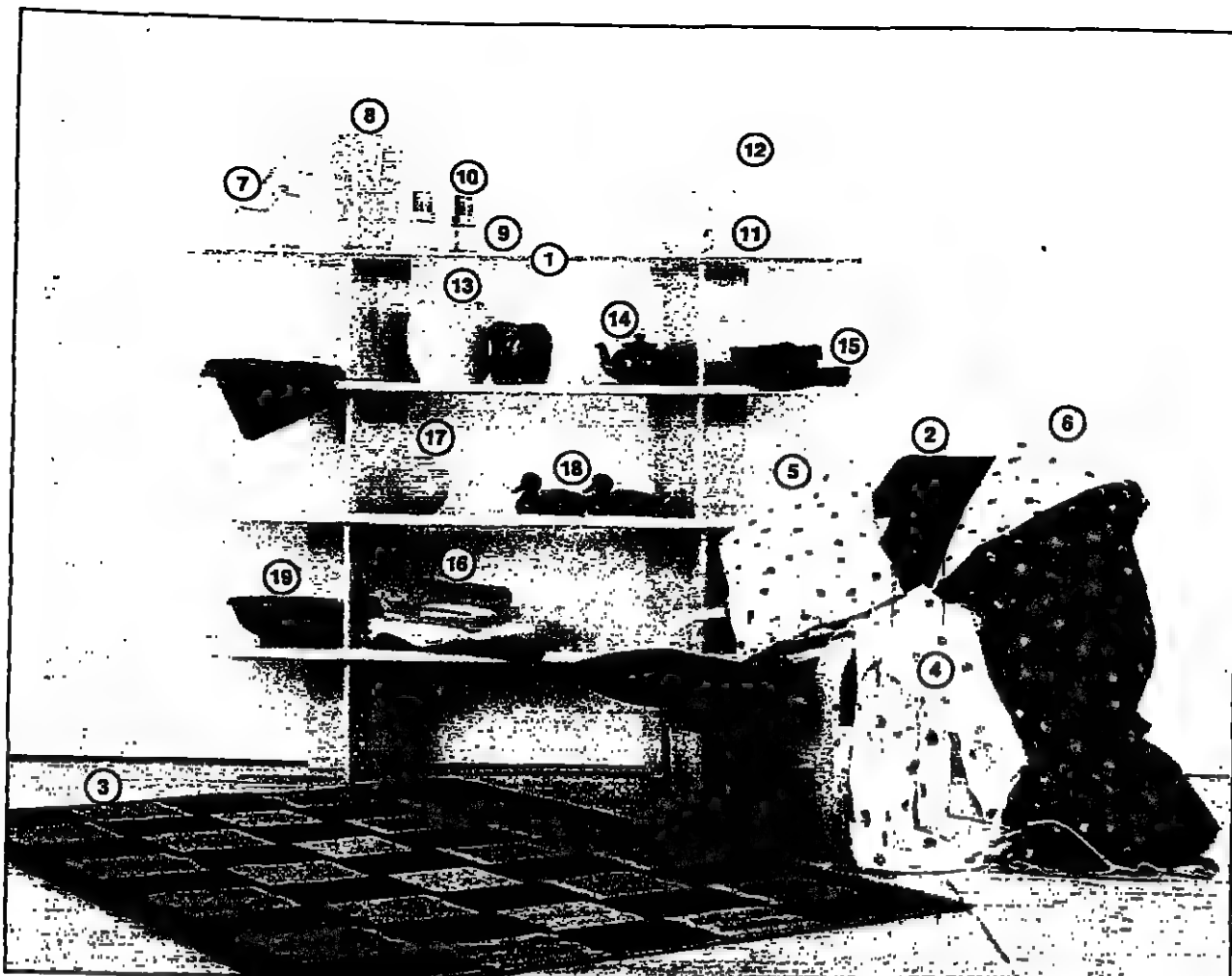
Carl Fliermans, the project's
chief scientist, says around
1,500 types of the bacteria have
been examined in detail but only
three have been classified.
Fliermans expects to go on
finding new types of bacteria
until the drill hits bedrock at
2,000 feet. Elsewhere there may
be life at even greater depths.

Fliermans feels that pushing
the team's research deeper into
the "biosphere" but he also finds it
curious that space probes were
sent to Mars to search for traces
of extra-terrestrial life long be-

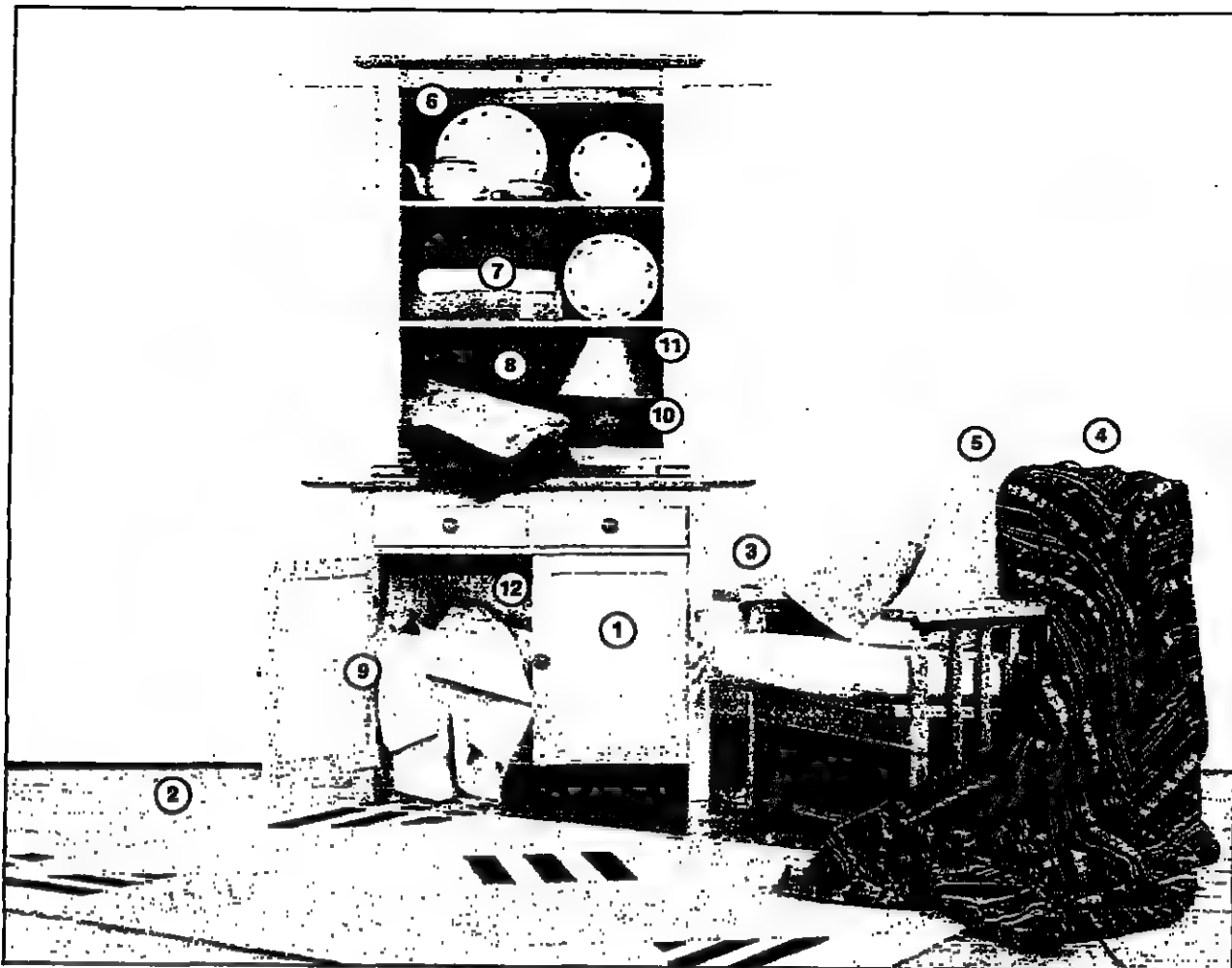
SHOPPING

A Swedish company is ready to challenge Habitat's dominance of the 'first home' furniture market in the south

Pine stripped and ready for battle



IKEA: 1 Munk clear lacquer pine wall unit, £50; 2 Poem chair with beech arms and a black corded cotton seat, £105; 3 Ullstead pure wool rug, £95; 4 Single quilt covers from £9.50; 5 Pillow cases from £1.70; 6 Set of single quilt covers with one pillowcase, £16.50. On unit: 7 Wooden bendyman, £5.80; 8 Tall Ballard ceramic vase, £11; 9 Wooden candle holders, £2.80 each; 10 Pink candles, £1.20 for pack of three; 11 Presto wooden lamp base, £17.80; 12 Korus cotton shade, £5.80; 13 Pund ceramic vases, £5.60 for a small vase, £7.90 for the large version; 14 Teapot, £4.95; 15 Hand towels, from £6.60; 16 Bath towels, from £7.40; 17 Kabinett circular glass vase, £8; 18 China ducks, £3.50 each; 19 Black ceramic bowl, £4.60.



HABITAT: 1 Quaker storage unit in ash, £249 (base unit), £139 (top unit), £199 (glass doors to top unit), 2 Metro Axminster wool rug, £165; 3 Edward chair, £255; 4 Zinder single duvet cover, £21.99 (double duvet cover, £27.99 and £32.99 for large double); 5 Annica Blue set of single duvet cover with one pillowcase, £15.99 (double duvet cover with two pillowcases, £21.99 and £27.99 for large double set). In unit: 6 Isis earthenware boxed set of 20 pieces (including pieces shown here) £69.95; 7 Hand towels, from £3.99 each; 8 Bath towels, from £7.99 each; 9 Bath sheets, £12.99 each; 10 Cassata ceramic lampbase, £8.95; 11 Cotton shade, £3.95; 12 Annica Blue housewife pillowcase, £2.99. Photographs by David Banks

Terence Conran launched Habitat 24 years ago, and nothing has really happened in British furniture retailing since. Nothing, that is, until the Swedish company IKEA, which next Thursday opens its first London store, set up shop in the relative obscurity of Warrington last year.

Habitat is the most resonant of brand names, identifying with a whole way of life, but it remains a smaller chain than one would expect. It has fewer than 60 shops in Britain.

In its present incarnation it has side-stepped the missionary zeal of Terence Conran's original concept: bringing affordable, well designed, sophisticated products to the masses. Habitat is in the business of selling furniture, not social engineering. Despite opening its newest stores in out-of-town sites, it is perceived as catering to the urban middle classes, perhaps those furnishing their first homes before trading up to Heals or the Conran Shop.

Despite offering a range which exhibits not dissimilar tastes, IKEA is taking a different course from Habitat. With the strength and economic resources of a multinational chain (it has furniture hypermarkets throughout Europe and Asia), IKEA is challenging the rock bottom end of the mass market head on. Despite the occasional crummy reproduction coach lamp, and just a little too much reliance on Scandinavian pine, it does cater for every room of the house with considerable flair.

What is so impressive about IKEA's operation is the sheer scale. The product range covers every conceivable necessity, accessory and luxury for homes and gardens - from the humblest screwdriver to the banks of floor-to-ceiling storage units.

If IKEA works in Britain, and the experience in Warrington suggests that it will, then the country will be

in for a taste revolution: Habitat taste not just for the inner city gentrifiers, but for the council estates too.

IKEA's strategy does not rely simply on offering sensible, stylish furniture at remarkable prices (so cheap, in fact, that one suspects that the profit margins of some existing retailers may be a touch too well upholstered); crucial to its success is selling huge volumes of furniture, which can alone justify the scale of production needed to bring prices down.

For this, the company is geared up to the changing pattern of shopping in the Eighties. The High Street is dying, so IKEA is a store for people who would rather not run the risk of getting the car clamped in the town centre. The group prefers huge sites, with vast car parks, on the edge of towns - the store which opens this week in Wembley has space for 1,000 cars.

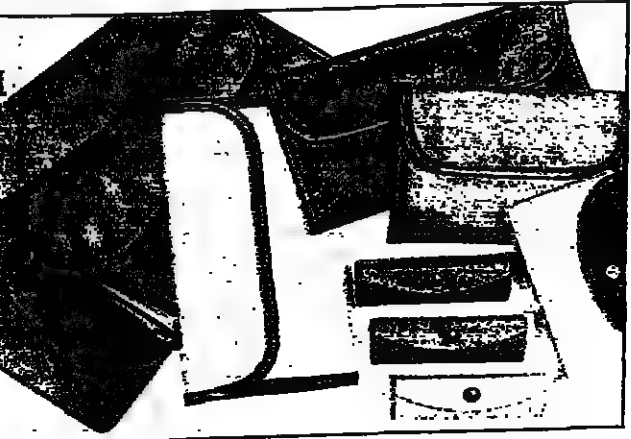
Above all, IKEA caters for young families who spend their Saturday mornings shopping together. It offers fully supervised play areas for children aged from three to seven, video room for older children, a restaurant, bistro, and deli.

Ray Nethercott, chief executive of Habitat (UK), commented: "Where Habitat is in geographical proximity to IKEA there is bound to be competition but, more positively, the opening of IKEA will heighten the awareness of home adornment and benefit home furnishings retailers throughout the country."

Nicole Swengley

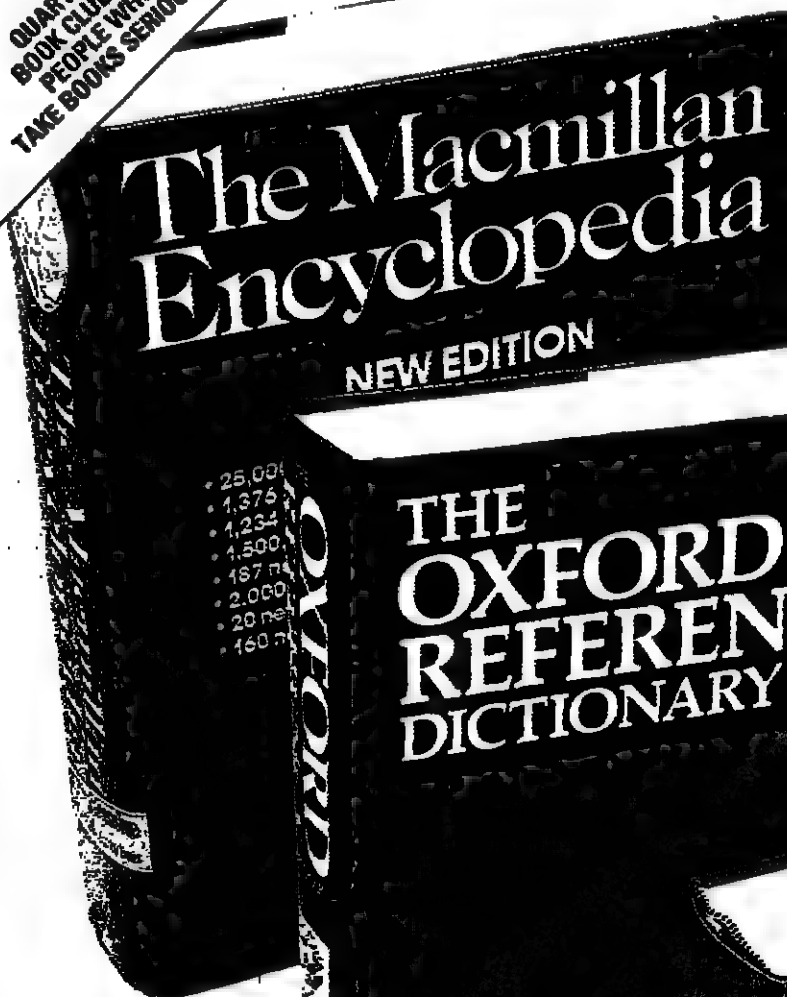
IKEA opens on Thursday at 2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (01-451 5611). On September 29 and 30, the store opens 9am-8pm; on October 1 and 2, from 9am-6pm. Thereafter opening hours are 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat. IKEA is also at 910 Europa Boulevard, Westbrook, Warrington, Cheshire.

The Italian Jobs



Zappy new accessories made exclusively for Harvey Nichols in Italy include these colourful wallets (£7.95 and £9.95), purses (£6.95) and leather lipstick holders (£5.95). Made from PU (polyurethane), the wallets and purses fasten with velcro - useful when skiing. From October 14 for two weeks the store is also holding an exhibition - the first outside Milan - of original Enny bags of varying ages, shapes and sizes, including a new handbag designed for Harvey Nichols, available in red, black and navy. Cost: £85.

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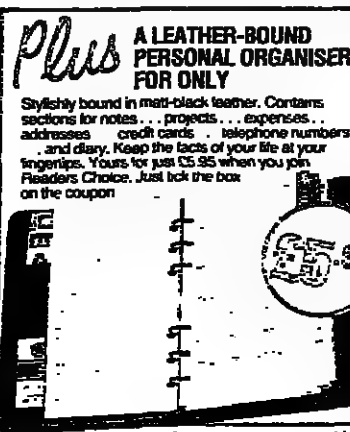
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PLEASE SEND NO MONEY NOW NO STAMP NEEDED

INSIDE STORY

PHIL BAYER



Ian MacLaurin, reflecting on his company's image: Tesco, once a pioneer of supermarkets, was slow to recognize the potential of the opposition's out-of-town stores. Operation Checkout, 11 years ago, enabled it to make a clean break with the past

Checking out the future

After decades of success, Tesco's Green Shield stamps and small stores were looking distinctly old-fashioned by the mid-Seventies.

Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman, explains how attitudes had to be changed before the vital recovery could be mounted

Little more than a decade ago, Tesco was close to being written off by the markets, a situation due, in part, to a sense of complacency induced by its former achievements. Then morale in the company was falling almost as fast as its City rating and its market share — and it was a favourite pastime among analysts to compare its "time of troubles" with their favoured stock, Sainsbury. Recently, by contrast, a commentator in one of the retail industry's leading journals posed the question: "Will the enormously confident Sainsbury be overtaken by the newly revitalized Tesco?"

Tesco operates in the most competitive sector of the UK economy, and one in which success is not only notoriously elusive but also notoriously short-lived for those who believe they have found the secret of its durability. Obviously the idea of easy continuing success is absurd, not least when change has moved into the fast lane, overtaking the time we have to adjust to it.

It is a truth that may be intimidating, but it is one that Tesco has had to come to terms with these past 10 years. Until the late 1960s the seemingly inexorable growth of the company (in 1945 a London and Home Counties multiple operating out of little more than 100 stores; by 1970 a national group operating from 735 shops) had tended to disguise the paradoxical link between success and its *doppelgänger*, failure. For a quarter of a century the company had sustained an unbroken pattern of growth in turnover, in market share, in profits.

The very speed and magnitude of the expansion, however, had disguised certain fundamental problems within the company. The very name Tesco was regarded as a talisman, and the nature of its success as self-perpetuating. The company became careless of the fact that conditions were changing around it. While Tesco reflected on its achievements in the immediate past, the competition reflected on ways to curb its success in the future.

Cracks in Tesco's facade were soon to be exposed. By the mid-1970s, Tesco shares were selling at

around 20p, and brokers were near-unanimous in their advice to sell Tesco stock. The company's share of the growth market was static and its development programme had come to a virtual halt. For the independent observer, the question may well have been whether Tesco would survive as a free-standing entity or whether, with the continuing rationalization of the industry, it would fall victim to a merger or takeover — moves at which, until comparatively recently, the company itself had been so adept.

Without radical changes in the philosophy of the company, without its seeing beyond the comfortable illusion of success to the very real possibility of failure, and without a major transformation of the entire character of the company, there would have been no Tesco.

Bertrand Russell never tired of remarking that, given the right questions, anyone can obtain the right answers. The dictum applied exactly to Tesco's situation. The first need was to determine precisely what were the problems within the company, before deciding what could be done to resolve them.

The immediate problems were perceived as twofold. On the one hand the company was trading with an image which had been successful in the 1950s and 1960s, but had rapidly diminishing relevance to the 1970s. On the other, due to the weakness of its development programme, Tesco operated in small and often inadequate units which reinforced the impression that the company had lost touch with market reality.

Underlying both problems, of course, were management attitudes based on the conviction that what had served so well in the past would serve equally well in the future. All the evidence might contradict the assumption, but it remained an article of faith that was ultimately tested to breaking point over the issue of trading stamps.

Throughout the 1960s Tesco had been a major exponent of stamps, and during that decade the Green Shield emblem had become virtually synonymous with the company's identity. By the mid-1970s, however, there

were growing doubts not only about the value of Tesco's annual investment in stamping, but also about their impact on the customer's perception of the company. It could be argued that trading stamps, and all they represented, were symptomatic not so much of the traditional Tesco as of the traditional attitude that dominated Tesco management.

As long as those attitudes prevailed, stamping would remain a part of Tesco — with all that this implied for the future of the company. The issue finally came to a head in the spring of 1977, when, by a single vote, it was agreed to drop stamps. Three months later, the company announced the decision — allied to a massive price-cutting campaign, thanks to the economies achieved by abandoning stamps.

The story of the day that Tesco dropped Green Shield is now a part of marketing folklore: within a year turnover almost doubled and market share rose substantially. There could be no denying the quick success of the decision to abandon stamps, though subsequently it has tended to mask the altogether more important fact that the success of Operation Checkout (as the dropping of stamps was termed) effectively marked a clean break with the past.

Almost half a century has passed since Sir John Cohen had first established the company as one retailer among the multiple pack of the 1930s, and while no one could gainsay his achievements, Checkout effectively symbolized the first stage in a radical shift in the entire trading strategy of the company. However, while it takes time to formulate a new corporate strategy, the runaway success of Checkout created an immediate demand for the re-evaluation of Tesco's store and development programme.

Tesco had been among the pioneers of supermarking in the 1950s, but it was slow to recognize the potential of new, even larger stores being developed by the competition. The hypermarket or superstore — a US innovation — was gaining increasing favour on the Continent by the 1960s. Such units cater largely for car-borne shoppers and are based on edge-of-town or out-of-town sites. It was only in 1975, and well

behind such groups as Carrefour and Asda, that Tesco opened its first large store at Irlam, on the outskirts of Manchester. The priority, and a critical one, was to make up lost ground on the competition — and within two years of launching Checkout, the company's development budget had grown twelvefold, against a background of continuing reduction in the number of smaller trading units. Thus by 1980 the company was operating out of only 550 stores — yet its trading area had grown by 300,000 square feet.

But it was not only that this new generation of stores allowed Tesco to keep pace with the competition.

Nothing succeeds like success, they say — but history has a full portfolio of evidence to the contrary

Equally important, they provided the company with the means of transforming its trading identity. Indeed, if the new identity of the company first test-marketed at the launch of Checkout had not been complemented by the development of attractive modern stores, a damaging conflict of image would have arisen — our high-street identity contrasting vividly with the whole thrust of our new marketing programme.

In the early days of the company it was said that Sir John Cohen could balance Tesco's profit and loss account on the back of an envelope. Much had already changed in the company's first half-century, but Checkout, and all that followed, demanded an acceleration in the pace of change, for there is a quantum difference between running a supermarket of 9,000 or 10,000 sq ft with a staff of 20 supporting a six-figure annual turnover, and a store of six, eight, or even 10 times this size — a difference as much in management attitudes as in the stock

control, marketing, merchandising and personnel systems, all of which have to achieve a new degree of sophistication.

Since the 1960s, Tesco had been running a small training unit. By the late 1970s that unit was undergoing rapid expansion in order to develop the essential in-house skills needed not only to handle the new business being generated by the company but also to maintain a high level of service in the growing number of large stores becoming operational. Since time immemorial, retail has been a "people business", but in the post-war years there has always been the danger that the growing application of economies of scale to the business would tend to dehumanize the shopper, more especially when allied to the introduction of advanced systems.

Although these two developments occurred in isolation, it is argued that the first, the growth of new superstores, would have been virtually unmanageable without the second, new technology. A modern Tesco unit trades in as many as 18,000 lines, turning over upwards of £1 million a week. It is a further salutary reminder of the accelerating pace of change and, consequently, the contracting lead-time for adaptation, that the introduction of increasingly sophisticated systems has closely paralleled the continuous shift to larger stores. If it took a millennium to develop the abacus, and a century the manual till, then the electronic cash register came of age in less than a decade — and is already threatened with obsolescence by the introduction first of bar coding, and now of electronic point of sale systems, which additionally make possible automatic stocktaking, essential in a huge store.

Individually, either of these developments — much larger stores or advanced electronic systems — would have posed problems. Together they created the risk of depersonalized shopping, of intimidating and thus alienating the customer. In-store design can do much to overcome the problem, but in the end the character of the shop, whatever its form, continues to depend on the quality of its staff, which explains the growing stress placed on the recruitment and the training of all levels of staff within the company.

Seen from the distance of a decade, Tesco's revival may appear as a seamless pattern, each element reinforcing the other — selling in the new identity, reorienting the development programme to complement this image, introducing increasingly refined systems to service the new generation of large stores, and above all, training a new generation of staff to manage them. As we have seen, things were not quite so controlled. Theoretically, of course, a comprehensive strategy should have been formulated before Checkout was launched. But there is a world of difference between theory and practice, and even the most optimistic could not have anticipated the extraordinary success of the operation.

The inherent risk of success is that it can all too easily induce complacency, a corrosive condition in any business, and in the retail sector a fatal one. There can be no doubt at all about the impact of Checkout, as indicated by the near-frenzied response of the opposition. As the *Financial Times* observed, there was "war on the high street". For Tesco, two priorities emerged — to consolidate immediate gains while developing a credible formula for future expansion. Both ultimately turned on the capacity of senior management to rethink its entire approach to the company.

Where previously senior management had tended to live on a day-to-day basis, depending on "feel" for the market, there was now to be a significant shift towards "thinking long". There was (and in some cases continues to be) a deep-rooted belief among certain retailers that they shaped, rather than were shaped by, the environment in which they traded. The notion, by no means confined to retailers, is absurd. No company is bigger than the market in which it trades, and unless it makes an effort to gain some idea of what the future may hold, it radically diminishes its future trading prospects.

Obviously there are no absolutes in the game of strategic planning. As Tesco learnt, however, this does nothing to minimize its importance. Indeed, without the capacity to monitor and then interpret the underlying

shifts taking place in the socio-economy, all the internal changes (the creation of a new identity, the development of new stores, the retraining of staff, the application of advanced systems) are placed in jeopardy.

Not that the external and internal elements are incompatible. On the contrary, they complement one another to provide a coherent strategy for trading in tomorrow's world: a strategy based on identifying on the one hand where the company should be going, and on the other how it is to get there. The alternative, of being taken unaware by what Galbraith once termed "the uncertain future", is at best a high-risk formula, and at worst a self-destructive mechanism of corporate magnitude.

In Tesco's case, the lesson of attempting to manage the future and, consequently, of managing change took time to learn. To pretend otherwise would be nonsense. Traditional attitudes and practices die hard, and it has taken time to reorient the company since the exciting days of 1977. More important, the reorientation process still continues, as is inevitable if the company is to show it has gleaned anything from the past.

Nothing succeeds like success, they say, but history has an equally full portfolio of evidence to the contrary: nothing has been known to fail like success either. Success is a risky business. Within itself, it carries the seeds of failure — complacency, ignorance and a lightheaded arrogance. Behind some of the world's most spectacular failures lies a blissful optimism born of earlier success.

Tesco provides the perfect example: steady, seemingly inexorable progress for 50 years, with success after stunning success, and then, in the mid-1970s, the shocking realization that nobody — neither the consumer nor the money market — wanted to know any more. Dr Johnson once described what follows success as "that empty sound". It is the point at which, as we at Tesco have now learnt the hard way, success must be redefined.

Extracted from Turnaround: How 20 Well Known Companies Came Back From The Brink, edited by Rebecca Nelson with David Clutterbuck, published by Mercury Business Books (£12.95).

Mill
£5m

Pricing co
of Opec

ConsGol
of the

Miller & Santhouse makes £5m cash call as profits soar

By Rosemary Unsworth

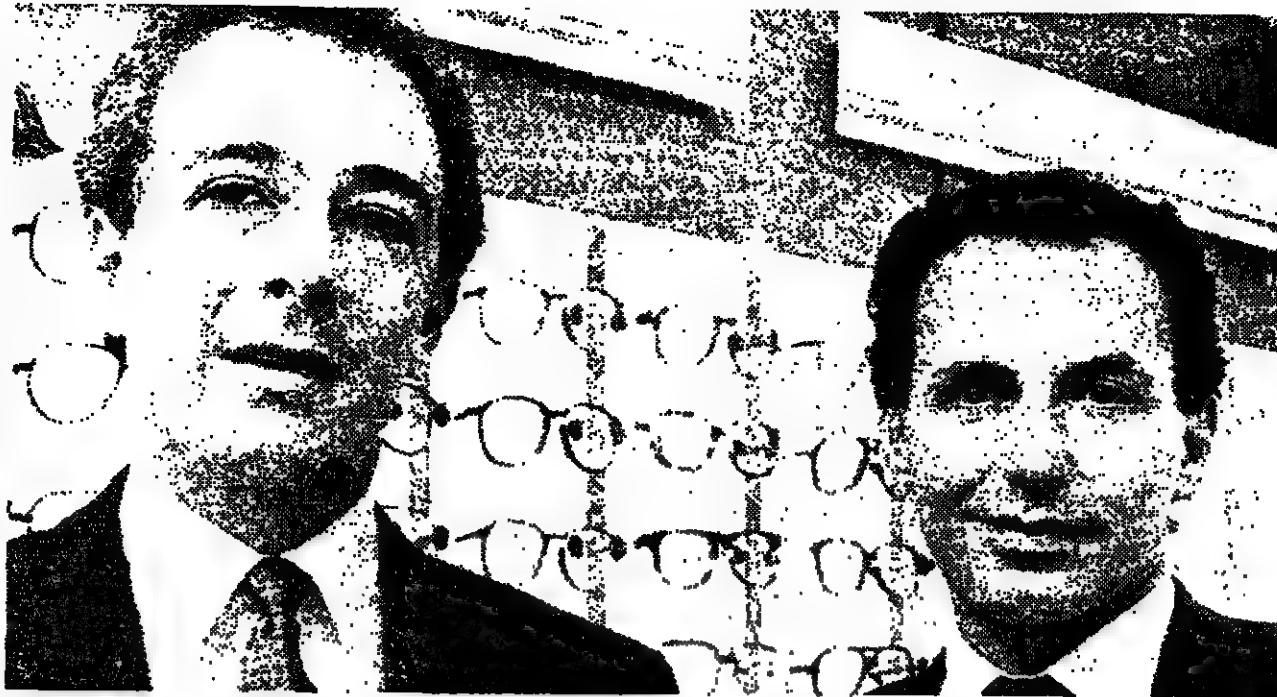
Baby boomers are now reaching their forties and need to buy reading glasses, according to Mr Maurice Miller, chairman of Miller & Santhouse, the Liverpool spectacles retailer.

He was in London yesterday explaining how his group more than doubled its profits and the reason for a £5 million rights issue. Miller & Santhouse, which came to the USM two years ago, is now also seeking a full stock market listing.

Pretax profits for the 85-branch chain were £1.5 million for the year to June 30, compared with £611,000. Turnover soared from £5.79 million to £13 million and a final dividend of 2.75p net is recommended, making a total of 4p, up 70 per cent on the previous year.

Since last year the group has expanded from 39 branches and plans to run a total of 95 by the end of this year. This growth is to continue at a rate of about 40 new branches a year until the group has 450, when it believes it will be represented on all prime high street sites in the UK.

The group sells a wide range of spectacles — mainly own label — and contact lenses and offers a one-hour supply service in a open shop environment. It believes this style



Glasses raised to higher profits: Jeffrey Santhouse (left) and Maurice Miller yesterday (Photograph by James Gray)

appeals to consumers who are waking up to the idea of owning more than 1.2 pairs of spectacles each.

Miller & Santhouse seized its 3 per cent share of the UK spectacles market — worth £600 million a year — when the Government started deregulating the optical industry. It will be completed,

said Mr Miller, with the introduction next year, probably on April 1, of the Medicines Act, when free eye tests will be abolished.

"We expect turnover to be brisk in January, February and March of next year which will offset some of the decline after that," he said.

Miller & Santhouse is be-

hind Dolland & Aitchison, the market leader in spectacles retailing with its 700 shops, and Boots which has 250 shops.

The rights issue, which is on the basis of two for seven shares at 300p, will be used to reduce borrowings of about £3 million, incurred through the group's rapid expansion and

the establishment of a new head office in Liverpool's Beale City Museum.

After the announcement the shares dipped 25p to 430p. The rights issue will mean that Mr Miller's shareholding will fall from 33 to 28 per cent while board interests will represent 45 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Pricing committee of Opec to meet

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' pricing committee is to meet tomorrow, probably in Madrid, to draw up the framework of a new pricing system which it hopes will be accepted by all 13 member-countries.

The five ministers, who make up the committee, from Indonesia, Venezuela, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, are unlikely to make any final announcement after their discussions. Instead they will take proposals to the other members for consideration before the scheduled ministerial meeting on November 21.

Prices are well under the Opec target of \$18 a barrel with North Sea Brent crude, which commands a far higher price than most Opec oils, changing hands for about \$13.60 a barrel.

Oil traders are still suggesting the price could go down

unless Opec agrees to a strict quota system. At present its members are pumping 20 million barrels a day, compared to its official quota of 18.6 million barrels.

Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait are all producing more than their agreed quotas as they fight to win an increased share of a contracting market.

Stockpiling in Japan has kept demand up in the past week, but the Opec pricing committee will be told that projected demand in the coming weeks will be lower, unless there is an early cold spell in Northern Europe.

The committee could call an emergency meeting of the full ministerial council but, with a meeting scheduled for November and no indication that any new strategies will be worked out this weekend, such a meeting is unlikely.

More suitors emerge for GT Management

By Wolfgang Mutschan

Speculation mounted yesterday that six more potential bidders, including four overseas institutions, had emerged for GT Management, the troubled international fund management group.

GT, whose share price rose by 10p to 158p during the week, became the focus of bid speculation following reports that Tyndall Holdings, the British financial services group, was prepared to pay £100 million for the company. It is now understood that during the week GT and Tyndall held talks that may lead to a formal offer, but this is unlikely to occur within the next two weeks.

Further confusion was added yesterday by speculation that GT may launch a counterbid for Tyndall, although industry specialists regard this as unlikely. GT is

also said to have been in discussions with a US investment bank, a Japanese financial services firm and a European bank.

Analysts have been predicting further foreign representation in the unit trust industry, which has suffered severely from last October's market crash.

Recently, Dresdner Bank, West Germany's second largest, took a 70 per cent stake in Thornton & Co, a GT offshoot headed by Mr Richard Thornton, who also managed was also mentioned as a possible bidder for GT.

However, Thornton has now been ruled out, as have British & Commonwealth and Henderson, the financial services groups.

It is understood that Tyndall remains the most likely British suitor, as Tyndall is

believed to be particularly keen on GT's UK fund. But Tyndall's £211 million right issue last year has been judged a disaster by industry analysts.

Mr Richard Furling, of Alexander Leung & Crutchfield, the brokers, said yesterday that market reaction would be fierce if Tyndall, which is much smaller than GT, went ahead with a bid. "There is a massive chance that Tyndall's shares would be taken for some months, if not years," he said.

Mr Furling added that although he believes Tyndall will not, or at least should not, launch a bid for the company, the chances of GT remaining independent were slim. It is believed that the main attractions of GT are its cheap share price, £30 million cash mountain and international network.

HK Land interim advances to £40m

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Hong Kong's biggest property company, Hongkong Land, yesterday announced a 13 per cent rise in profits to HK\$536 million (£40.6 million) for the six months ending June 30.

The figures mark the true performance of the company, as the 1987 interim included a contribution from Mandarin Oriental International which was hived off as a separately-listed company in June last year.

On Thursday Mandarin Oriental International reported interim after-tax profits of HK\$145 million, up by 20 per cent to HK\$174 million.

Mr Brian Powers, who took over from Mr Simon Keswick as chairman and managing director in June, said the group's office and retail portfolio was now 99 per cent leased.

"Vacancy remains at a low level throughout the Grade A office market and, with the company's own portfolio virtually full, rents have continued to increase in the second half of the year."

The group owns more than 5.5 million sq ft of prime commercial space, including some of the best-known landmarks in Hong Kong.

Earnings per share were 8 per cent higher at HK\$2.14 cents, and the interim dividend is being raised from HK\$12 cents to HK\$13 cents.

Hongkong Land is controlled by the Keswick family through its Hong Kong-listed investment firm, Jardine Strategic Holdings. In May Jardine Strategic Holdings increased its shareholding in Hongkong Land to 33 per cent after resisting a takeover bid from three of the Colony's biggest Chinese tycoons.

Mr Li Ka-shing, head of Cheung Kong, Mr Lee Shau-kee, Henderson Land chairman, and Mr Cheng Yu-tung, New World chairman, together with Peking-backed China International Trust and Investment Corporation gathered an 8 per cent stake in Hongkong Land and tried to persuade Mr Powers and Mr Keswick to sell them Jardine's stake.

They refused and instead the tycoons sold their 205 million shares for HK\$1.8 billion.

Mr Powers said the company's net profit for the full year "will be higher than in 1987," notwithstanding the inclusion last year of about HK\$400 million of profits from property trading and from Mandarin Oriental International.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Half-time £2.17m by Haden MacLellan

Haden MacLellan Holdings, the engineering group headed by Mr Philip Ling, has reported pre-tax profits for the first six months of this year of £2.17 million. Previous figures are not comparable, as they came before the double reverse takeover which combined the private Haden and Halesworth Holdings companies with the smaller but quoted P&W MacLellan. The interim dividend is more than doubled, from 0.7p to 1.5p a share.

Mr Ling said that the original MacLellan and Halesworth companies had traded extremely well during the first half. The company was still looking to expand, with a number of prospects under active consideration, he said. On the Continent, however, the Haden businesses entered the year with abnormally low order books.

Tuskar bids for Arabex

Dublin-based Tuskar Resources plans a cash bid for Arabex Petroleum, the Australian oil explorer. The offer, which needs approval by the National Companies and Securities Commission of Australia, values Arabex at IR£8.9 million. Tuskar has 16.9 per cent of Arabex and is bidding up to IR£7.4 million for the remaining shares and options. Tuskar is offering Aus\$0.29 for every Arabex share.

Sykes shows slim increase

Sykes-Pickavant Group, the car tool manufacturer with a USM quote, is raising the interim dividend from 1.44p a share to 2.25p despite pre-tax profits remaining almost static in the first six months of 1988. On turnover up from £6.65 million to £7.55 million, it made profits of £830,000 against £810,000 last time. Mr Paul Mindelsohn, the chairman, expects the second half to improve on last year.

London Life explains

London Life, the insurance company, has agreed to give a fuller explanation of its reasons for wanting a merger with Australian Mutual Provident after pressure from a group of policy-holders opposed to the deal. Documents outlining the move, which are expected to be sent to policy-holders on Monday, will now give reasons for the deal and details of how AMP plans to run London Life after the merger. If the group finds the explanations inadequate, it will advise policy-holders to oppose the scheme.

The group believes a merger with some more compatible insurance company, such as Equitable Life, could make more sense. An extraordinary meeting to vote on the merger will be held on October 19.

Maude visit to Far East

Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, flew to Singapore yesterday at the start of a fact-finding tour which includes Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea. Discussions are expected to centre on the impact of the single European market on imports from the Far East. Other issues on the agenda are deregulation, access to markets and stock exchanges, and British trade with the region.

Waterman up to £3.8m

Waterman Partnership Holdings, the consulting structural and civil engineer which came to the market this year, has more than doubled pre-tax profits, from £1.94 million to £3.78 million, in the year to end-June. Earnings are up from 6.8p a share to 13.5p. Waterman is paying a special final dividend of 1.5p a share in respect of the 38-day period from the flotation of the company to the year-end.

Foseco in US buyout

Foseco, the specialty chemicals group, has agreed to buy out the outstanding 40 per cent minority shareholding in its US Celite subsidiary from Société Anonyme d'Exploitation et de Produits Chimiques for \$3.2 million (£1.97 million).

Celite makes chemical anchoring products for the construction and mining industries. It has been a joint venture for a couple of decades with the French company, which is now moving away from this kind of product. At the same time Foseco, which in July shortened its name from Foseco Minsep, has been developing new products for the mining industry which it is anxious to sell in the US.

Minorco aims to lay UK foundation for a dynasty

ConsGold bid carries hallmark of the Oppenheimer vision

By Colin Campbell

There is an apocryphal story that one bright trainee at the Anglo American minerals giant drew up a chart showing all Anglo's tangled interests and cross-holdings in clear-cut box form and took it to the then chairman Mr Harry Oppenheimer.

"Look Sir, I have drawn this up so everybody can have a clear understanding of who we are and what we own."

Mr Oppenheimer looked at the chart and said: "How very interesting. Now tear it up. And don't you ever do that again."

True or not, it nicely illustrates the point that only a chosen few hold the key to whatever makes the Oppenheimer corporate mind tick, and only a handful ever fully appreciate the Oppenheimer/Anglo vision.

That vision was first conceived in the early 1900s and was given birth 71 years ago tomorrow when Anglo American Corporation was established by Sir Ernest Oppenheimer.

The vision was simple, ambitious, bold and far-reaching: to start an empire, build it, make it impregnable and defend it, and use its gathering strength and momentum to take on the corporate world.

This week's £2.9 billion share and cash bid for Britain's Consolidated Gold Fields group by Minorco, the overseas investment arm of the Anglo American-De Beers group in which the two inter-related gold and diamond groups have 60 per cent control, has all the hallmarks of that Oppenheimer vision.

It is undoubtedly a corporate move, through which Minorco hopes to unlock its own and ConsGold's treasure chests and take centre-stage of the natural resources world with assets of \$5 billion, of which the founder would have approved.



Empire of the son: Harry Oppenheimer

Germany in 1880, moved to London, aged 16, and when 22 was sent to South Africa to take charge of the Kimberley office of A. Dunkelsbuhler & Co, then one of the smaller diamond firms.

Sir Ernest became mayor of Kimberley, birthplace of one of the world's diamond mines, and one of his earlier actions was to amalgamate the adjoining

"What my father called intuition was really an ability to make up his mind quickly about the probabilities of a case and to act decisively on his judgement. He liked to say: 'If the wise man thinks too long, the fool does some thinking too.'" — Mr Harry Oppenheimer: September 25, 1967.

municipalities of Kimberley and Beaconsfield. The merger which is as evident today as it was then.

From an initial capital base of £1 million (1917 values), half of which came from England and South Africa, and the other half from America, Anglo American has grown into one of the world's largest and most powerful mining and financial groups. It is the largest gold pro-

ducer, owner of fabulous diamond mines, strong in the Southern African industrial field, has interests across four continents, and is now hungry for expansion.

In its time, Anglo American has merged gold mining companies, industrial interests, and taken strategic holdings in operations across the world. With extensive

financial muscle behind it, the empire is poised to move again. This time Minorco is the chosen child for expansion, and Sir Michael Edwards the chosen stepfather.

Mr Harry Oppenheimer turns 80 on October 28, and although he retired from the Anglo board in 1982 (he remains on De Beers' board) his personal influence and his father's vision still pervades.

Mr Oppenheimer no longer sits on the Anglo chairman's throne but he has an office in the Anglo-De Beers Johannesburg buildings, his own parking place, and heads are still inclined when he walks along the corridors.

His retirement from Anglo American was no ordinary handshake and gold watch for faithful service affair. His counsel is still sought, and with the "family" controlling a good 8 per cent of the empire he remains ever interested in Anglo affairs.

Like an Olympic torch, lit by Sir Ernest in 1917, the Anglo flame is carried by faithful and trusted runners throughout the world to be handed on at the right time to the next.

Though the Anglo mantle presently rests on other shoulders — Julian Ogilvie Thompson runs De Beers, Gavin Rilly runs Anglo American — there is an Oppenheimer son (Nicholas) in the wings, who in turn has a son, to ensure that the dynasty goes on.

In the personal sense, this week's Minorco bid is seen as establishing a new foundation in Britain for the Oppenheimer dynasty, even though South Africa will remain the empire's spiritual home. On the assumption that Minorco wins ConsGold, the group will be able to eye fresh investment situations across the world.

Seasoned followers of the Anglo empire are hard pressed to recall when Anglo American was ever frustrated or defeated in its grand designs. A near case was the 1970s purchase of the Schlesinger insurance/banking group in Johannesburg, though as was said at the time: like life assurance, Schlesinger was sold — not bought.

It is, however, common cause that Minorco's bid for ConsGold has many political hurdles to clear, and many investment ditches to jump if this week's record breaking bid is not to turn into a bad dream. Should Minorco fail, Anglo mandarins will have to go back to the Sir Ernest oracle to light his torch afresh.

NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH

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WALL STREET

Dow dips 4 points in early dealings

Others are claiming that Elders IXL, the Australian brewery headed by Mr John Elliott and famous for its Foster's lager, has started to build up a holding. He already owns sizeable stakes in other brewers - Scottish & Newcastle (10 per cent) and Greene King (14 per cent).

Mr Victor McColl, a drinks specialist at Kleinwort Grievson, the broker, says this latest flurry in the share price has all the hallmarks of a bear squeeze. Mr McColl said: "There has been a buyer. But he has moved into a market short of stock."

group, which makes Durrenberger shrug off recent weakness. "I'm climbing 6p to 206p and open new positions almost everyday," he says, pointing to the figures.

Turnover remained at a low level with most of the activity centred on special situations. At 3 p.m. the FT-SE 100 value of 4,015 down 13.7873 has

York arbitrageur, holds a near 4 per cent stake in the company. This has raised market hopes that a full bid for Lonrho may be on the way.

According to news agency reports, Mr Paul Spicer, a director of Lonrho, said that Mr Rowland and the rest of the board might consider buy-

South African group — after briefly touching a high of £14.00 on the news of the bid. However, the price has still ended 238p up on the week and followers of the stock believe there is still a lot to play for.

Michael Clark

Stocks closed higher as local and overseas buying returned to the national share market in renewed positive trading. Nat-

moderately active trade, hauled up from early lows by lively foreign investors' interest in Volkswagen.

● **Hong Kong - The Hang Seng Index** closed 1.46 off at 2,454.38 and the broader-based Hong Kong Index eased

	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 21
8%	8%	73%	74%	
33%	34%	38%	38%	
48%	51	55	55	
12%	12%	39%	39%	
39%	39%	96%	96%	
49%	50	18%	19%	
48%	48%	37%	38%	
43%	42	38%	38	

Pacific Dunlop to purchase parts company for £120m

ment and research and dev-

about 2 per cent annually, but

Germany.

...distribution and cycle busi-

First Dealings
September 12

AL OPTIONS

Coming On	56%	58%	MOBIL
Cummins	30%	31%	Monsanto
Curtis W	N/A	48	Monsiegn
Gen. Genl	18%	19%	Morgan Jp
Gen. Co	45	45%	Motorola
Gen. Air	48%	49%	WCF
Gen. Ed	14%	14%	NL Indstrs
Digital Eq	92%	12%	Nat. Md. Ent
Dynex	83%	83%	Nat. Servs

7%	43%	Agree East	12%	13
7%	78%	Alcan Alum	35%	35%
3%	na	Algonia Std	25.37	25.37
4%	38%	Can Pacific	21%	21%
4%	43%	Comoco	18%	18%
7%	58%	Con Bazzist	14%	14%
8%	6%	Hawk S Can	21%	21%
1%	21%	Hud Bay M	18%	18%
9	8%			

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Duke Petr	44%	44%	Ogden Cp	29%	29%	Royal Trisco	18	159
East Kodak	44%	44%	Old Cp	40%	47	Shugram	66%	674
Easton Co	51%	52	PPG Ind	43%	43%	Shuco 'A'	42%	41%
Emerson El	29%	23%	Pac Engrg	45%	45%	Thunen N 'A'	28%	28%
Emery Air	5%	5%	Pac Gas El	17	17	Varsity Cp	3.45	3.45
Exxon	44%	46	Pan Am	8%	2%	WGT	19%	19%
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Mystery man comes out of shadows to tackle Rowland

Corporate raider
Asher Edelman,
whose dealing in
Lonrho was frozen
in the High Court
this week, talks to
David Brewerton

The name of Asher B Edelman was not widely known when the combined forces of Lonrho's Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, a Swiss bank called Hentsch & Cie, and the threat of High Court action combined to put him on the front pages of British newspaper business sections this week.

But it is a name which is set to become increasingly familiar. Those who cross the path of "Tiny" are likely to find their names and reputations a matter for common debate.

Mr Edelman had no wish to emerge from the shadows at this stage. It was not his idea to disclose his shareholding, still then below 3.8 per cent. And it was certainly not his idea to wind up with his shares frozen anyway, as happened in the High Court on Thursday.

"Tiny" is clearly making a fight of it, and Mr Edelman better prepare himself for a long campaign, or be ready to sell out.

Mr Edelman, regarded as a relatively successful arbitrageur who came through the crash in good shape, confesses he has not met "Tiny", but, of course, knows him by reputation. This might be rectified soon.

Mr Edelman said that, "without disclosing too many plans, I think you might find me in London from time to time in the near future."

Mr Edelman, aged 48, has worked in Europe but his battleground has been corporate America, where he has been involved in corporate actions against, and with, a string of companies.



Fighting mood: "Tiny" Rowland ready for a hard campaign

He has made offers for 20, he says, and acquired five. That does not mean the other 15 were failures — rather the reverse. What frequently suits all the corporate raiders is to light the gas, stir the pot, and then let somebody else do the taking over.

"In many instances, there have been others willing to pay more than I have. In most cases, I have bid very substantially more than the market price and more than I have paid."

Mr Edelman claimed he set out to acquire companies, not merely push them into action. He moves in when he sees a gap between the price and "what I perceive to be the value."

Just what he perceives to be Lonrho's value he will not say, but analysts such as Mr Paul Beaufre, of James Capel, reckon Lonrho's break-up value could be about 500p, whereas Mr Edelman paid less than 300p.

The self-confessed raider insists that the disclosure of his stake by Lonrho rather than by himself, "implies I might be trying to do something" which he might not be contemplating.

He seems to blame, however, not the generalists but managers which give in to them. In an address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in February, he claimed company managements were sheltering behind the Boesky affair to hide their own lack of ethics. And a major theme of his paper was the use of shareholders' funds to keep management entrenched in position to enjoy their perks.

Whether he regards Lonrho's quick resort to law this week as just such a use of shareholders' funds he can only speculate. But he did show a sense of humour in a statement after Lonrho's second court move, when he said it was "not necessary for me (Lonrho management) to take their third largest shareholder to court every day."

If he is to do battle with "Tiny", Mr Edelman will need all the humour he can muster.

He points out that, in most cases, where he has become involved, he has made outright offers to purchase companies, setting up the finance and paying the fees.

There are some companies where he has retained his investment for many years, but on other occasions, "when they've restructured, I've gone away after they have realized values for their stockholders."

Mr Edelman, according to Wall Street gossip, is probably good for \$500 million of equity investment and twice that on a couple of phone calls. He appears to outsiders to be capable of putting up about \$4 billion, in equity and debt, to finance a deal.

He says he has never resorted to "greenmail" — where certain shareholders are paid by the company to get them off his back. In fact, he says: "In my past, I have spent a lot of my time fighting against it, and turning it down. I have never taken it. With me, it is a moral issue."

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Touch of a takeover master could tame the market bears

There is a feeling — tentative but credible and growing — that the equity market is near to turning. I am sure the current mood, though fragile, is strong enough to sustain an extended rally. Whether the current is about to come down on the bear market is less certain. The arguments nevertheless are well worth examining.

The market is weighed down by four main concerns. 1. The outcome of the American presidential election in November. 2. The UK balance of payments deficit and rising inflation. 3. The disorganized and demoralized state of the securities industry which is desperate for more stock market business to restore its own confidence and a measure of profitability. (The risk that a broker or market-maker with whom you deal may not be around next week or next month is a deterrent the market could well do without). 4. The determination of investing institutions to avoid the risk of getting the market wrong, as they did in monumental fashion in the heady months leading up to the 1987 October crash.

Sooner or later their cash will burn a hole. Meanwhile with base rates set at 12 per cent they are receiving excellent returns on their money which in a superior way they regard as a proper reward for their prudence.

They probably also feel that the market, when it does turn, is unlikely initially to rear away so fast that their absence at the start of the next bull market would seriously embarrass them. On that point they might be wrong.

The focal point is the interest rate. The Chancellor has sensibly sought to prepare the market for another set, next



KENNETH FLEET

week, and probably a series, of "bad" balance of payments figures. These are now built into the City's expectations and should not cause alarm and despondency as they are published.

The key issues are whether high interest rates alone are enough to curb domestic demand and bring the balance of payments deficit and the rate of inflation back within bounds; and if they are enough, whether 12 per cent base rates is adequate to the task. Shall we see 13 per cent or even 14 per cent before the year is out?

For the moment the money and gilt-edged markets are fairly relaxed. On the international stage no initiatives will be taken before the US presidential election, while at home I detect a steady resolve on Nigel Lawson's part to hold base rates at 12 per cent.

They will probably have to stay at 12 per cent for six months or more, but unless a falling pound forces his hand I do not believe he will raise them.

In the short run steady rates will help the £2 billion-£2.5 billion November sale of British Steel — not an unimportant consideration for the privatization programme, government revenues and the state of the stock market.

The Steel issue is complex and would obviously be assisted by steady interest rates and a more cheerful market. You cannot cross palms with ingots. Even if

half the stock is offered for tender overseas (a la the ill-fated British Petroleum issue) and the target is institutions rather than individual investors, the marketers and salesmen who begin their campaign next week face a stiff job.

A generous dividend yield will have to be part of the package because of the cyclical nature of the steel industry (and public memories of horrendous losses).

If there is no irresistible pressure for higher base rates and Steel is a success investors will look more closely at the values available in the equity market. After all, a prospective price/earnings ratio of nine is not a bad place to start changing your arm.

There are however two other factors to bear in mind — takeover activity and the newly elected American president.

The conventional view is that President Bush will reassure world markets whereas President Dukakis will cause them anxiety. In the immediate aftermath of the election this may well be true.

The second factor is mergers and acquisitions which have kept the wolf from the door of merchant banks active in corporate finance, and stockbrokers and market-makers in pocket money.

What would give the market a powerful shot in the arm is a mega-bid by one of the takeover masters. This week's bid by Minorco for Consolidated Goldfields — though huge in amount (£2.9 billion) — does not fall in that category. To have the necessary impact the bid needs to come from Lord Hanson, Sir Owen Green or perhaps Sir James Goldsmith who seems to be in a more bullish frame of mind.

Charting a path to confidence

The technical analysts studying their charts are still more bullish than the fundamentalists. The chartist approach I favour is one that is not totally blind to fundamentals.

Robin Griffiths, of James Capel, the broker, is a chartist who allows his judgments to be coloured in this entirely proper way. He has his own "quantum theory" which says that absolute moves in market indices are not the result of random movements in share prices, they are the product of mass psychology: they are thus big numbers like 25 per cent, 33 per cent, 50 per cent, 66 per cent, 100 per cent. Italics have the same character: a quarter, or a third or a half of the previous falls.

Bear markets, which we are looking at, also have a special shape: they fall,

they rally, they complete the rest of their fall, going through their post-crash lows. This shape, however, may be distorted by fundamental factors (Griffiths's "secular trends").

Thus Japan, which clearly has a great deal going for it as a rich and powerful economy, saw a smaller post-crash fall on the Tokyo Stock Exchange and has enjoyed a bigger rally (to a new high in fact) than London and New York where the fundamentals are less favourable.

The pure chartist would argue that London (and New York) has yet to complete its fall to new post-crash lows. Griffiths, who dates the bear market from July last year and not October 19, has a more subtle approach.

Starting from the peak of the post-crash rally (1,893 on the FT-SE index, July 23) he sees the remainder of the

bear market falling into five phases. ● The fall after July 23 to about 1,720; ● A recovery to about the July 23 level (the phase the market is now in) in the run-up to the United States presidential election; ● A post-election fall; ● A rally towards the end of the year; ● The final stage of the bear market, coming to an end in February/March next year when markets have had the chance to judge the new President's policies and they take the view that the period of high interest rates is over and the next move in rates is down.

These are the signals for the next bull market to begin. Fundamentally it is the same story. Stock markets need more than money and cheap stock to make them rise. They need confidence.

European Law Report

Parliament master of its own organization

France v European Parliament. Joined Cases 358/85 and 51/86. Before Lord MacKenzie Stuart, President and Judges G. Bosco, O. Due, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot, C. N. Kakouris, R. Joliet, T. F. O'Higgins and F. A. Schockweiler. Advocate General G. F. Mancini. (Opinion June 21, 1988) [Judgment September 22]. The decisions adopted by the governments of the member states relating to the institutional and administrative arrangements of the Community institutions did not prevent the Parliament from deciding to hold a plenary session elsewhere than in Strasbourg, provided that such a decision remained exceptional and was justified by objective reasons relating to the good administration of the Parliament.

By its two actions France sought the annulment of the resolution of the European Parliament of October 24, 1985 on the infrastructure necessary for holding meetings in Brussels (OJ No C 343 of December 31, 1985, p.84).

The French Government disputed the power of the European Parliament to decide that there should be constructed a meeting chamber with six hundred seats or more in Brussels with a view to holding certain plenary sessions there.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held: Case 51/86, which was between the same two parties, sought the annulment of the same resolution on the basis of the same arguments as in Case 358/85. It had therefore to be dismissed as inadmissible.

With regard to the French Government's argument that the disputed resolution could not be discussed and voted upon under the urgent procedure laid down in article 48 of the Parliament's internal rules, it was sufficient to find that the Parliament's decision to organize an urgent debate on a draft resolution relating to the internal organization of its work and could not, therefore, be subject to judicial control.

The French Government's principal argument was that neither the 1965 decision of the representatives of the governments of the member states nor the *status quo*, confirmed at Maastricht in 1981, allowed the Parliament to hold sessions in Brussels. The disputed decision was contrary to the provisions of the Treaty which designated Strasbourg as the provisional seat of the Parliament.

It was first of all appropriate to note, as the judgment previously done in *Case 230/88 Luxembourg v Parliament* (1983) ECR 255, that the governments of the member states had not yet

discharged their obligation to determine the seat of the institutions in accordance with article 77 of the ECSC Treaty, article 216 of the EEC Treaty and article 189 of the EAEC Treaty.

Nevertheless, the governments had at different times taken decisions fixing the provisional places of work of the institutions on the basis of that same power and the decision of April 8, 1965 had been taken on the basis of the power expressly provided for in article 37 of the Treaty, establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities.

The governments of the member states, on the basis of that power had designated Strasbourg as the provisional meeting place for plenary sessions of the Parliament.

However, the designation of a provisional meeting place of an institution did not necessarily mean that the members of that institution could never hold meetings elsewhere. It was therefore necessary to examine whether the decisions adopted by the governments of the member states were to be understood as preventing the Parliament from deciding, pursuant to the power of internal organization conferred upon it by article 25 of the EAEC Treaty, article 142 of the EEC Treaty and article 112 of the EAEC Treaty, to hold a plenary session outside Strasbourg.

In that regard it was appropriate to point out that at the time of the relevant government decisions the Parliament had in fact held plenary sessions in Rome, Brussels and above all in Luxembourg. In the latter city the Parliament had even held a significant proportion of its plenary sessions, particularly those of short duration.

It was true that the French Government had protested against the holding of such meetings on several occasions, but its protests were not reflected in the governments' decisions. Those decisions contained no point out of any concluded by the Parliament at the time, whether positive or negative, nor of any provision intended to prevent the holding of plenary sessions outside Strasbourg in the future.

It followed from the rule of cooperation in good faith, derived, in particular from article 5 of the Treaty, on the one hand, and the Parliament's power to determine its own internal organization, on the other, that the member states had a duty to have regard to the power of the governments of the member states to determine the seat of the institutions and the provisions of the Treaty in that regard, and on the other hand, to ensure that their decisions did not impede the due functioning of that institution.

On the basis of those considerations, it could be concluded

that decisions of the governments of the member states could not prevent the Parliament, in the exercise of its power to determine its internal organization, from deciding to hold a plenary session elsewhere than in Strasbourg, where such a decision remained of an exceptional nature, thereby respecting the position of that city as the normal meeting place, and was justified by objective reasons relating to the good administration of the Parliament.

According to point 1 of the disputed resolution, the Parliament resolved to construct a building which satisfied certain requirements. Among the requirements indicated in the preamble to the resolution was that of organizing a special or additional plenary session during a week devoted essentially to meetings of committees or of groups.

It was only that use of the building that the French Government regarded as contrary to the decisions adopted by the governments of the member states and as exceeding the powers of the Parliament.

The Parliament justified that requirement by the necessity to be able to organize, at short notice, the sessions of the Parliament in the context of the

budgetary procedure and of the cooperation procedure between the Council and Parliament provided for by article 149(2) of the EEC Treaty, as amended by the Single European Act.

Where such brief sessions had to be organized during a week which the requirements of meetings of committees or of political groups which were normally held in Brussels, the Parliament considered it hardly rational to require its members who were in Brussels for the purpose of those meetings, to travel to Strasbourg for a short plenary session, even supposing that the Strasbourg hemisphere were available during the week in question.

It was to be observed, on the one hand, that the wording of the resolution, using the expression "special or additional plenary session" emphasized the exceptional nature of the intended use of the facilities in Brussels and, on the other hand, that the requirements indicated in the resolution constituted an objective reason relating to the good administration of the Parliament.

That requirement arose from the impediments to the due functioning of the Parliament caused by the absence of a

decision on the seat of the institutions which the member states ought to have taken pursuant to the Treaty. The proposed use was therefore within the limits, indicated above, of the powers of the Parliament to determine its own internal organization.

In those circumstances the disputed resolution, in as much as it expressed the wish to organize special or additional sessions in Brussels during weeks which were devoted principally to meetings of parliamentary committees or of political groups, did not go beyond the measures which the Parliament was authorized to adopt in the context of the organization of its work and did not infringe the decisions adopted by the governments of the member states relating to the provisional places of work of the Community institutions, nor did it impinge upon the powers of the member states in that regard.

On those grounds, the European Court of Justice held: 1 Dismissed Case 51/86 as inadmissible. 2 Dismissed Case 358/85 as unfounded. 3 Ordered the French Republic to pay the costs.

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Radioactive waste disposal in Community

Stearland and Others v Ministry for Industry, Posts and Telecommunications and Town and Country Planning. Case 187/87. Before Lord MacKenzie Stuart, President and Judges G. Bosco, O. Due, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot, C. N. Kakouris, R. Joliet, T. F. O'Higgins and F. A. Schockweiler.

Advocate General Sir Gordon Slynn. (Opinion June 8, 1988) [Judgment September 22]. Article 37 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) required the Commission of the European Communities to be notified of any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste in sufficient time to enable it to deliver its opinion prior to the adoption of any decision authorizing such disposal.

On February 21, 1986 various joint-ministerial decrees were adopted in France authorizing the disposal of both liquid and gaseous radioactive waste from the four units of the Cattenom nuclear power station in the Moselle department in North-east France.

The applicants, who were various local authorities in Germany and Luxembourg as well as the French and Luxembourgish environmental protection groups, challenged those decrees before the tribunal administratif (administrative court) Strasbourg, on the grounds, *inter alia*, that the French Govern-

ment had infringed article 37 of the EEC Treaty by failing to provide the Commission with general data relating to the disposal of radioactive waste by the Cattenom nuclear power station until April 29, 1986, that is to say after the disputed decrees had been adopted.

The defendants maintained that article 37 of the EAEC Treaty was to be interpreted as requiring the consultation of the Commission prior to the actual disposal of any waste, notwithstanding that such disposal had been authorized prior to inflicting the Commission with the burden of the administrative proceedings.

The tribunal administratif stayed the proceedings and referred a question to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling on a question of interpretation of that article which provided: "Each member state shall provide the Commission with such general data relating to any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste in sufficient time to enable it to deliver its opinion prior to the adoption of any decision authorizing such disposal."

In that regard, it was important to emphasize that that article formed part of Chapter III of the EAEC Treaty entitled "Health and Safety", whose

provisions constituted a syncretic body conferring upon the Commission extensive powers for the protection of the population and of the environment against the risks of nuclear contamination.

In the context of the provisions appearing under Chapter III, article 37 was a provision whose purpose was the prevention of possible radioactive contamination, while other provisions, such as article 38, were applicable where there was an imminent risk of contamination or even where contamination had already occurred.

In order to prevent the risk of radioactive contamination it was essential that the Commission's opinion, in particular where it suggested an amendment to the plan or the adoption of safety measures in collaboration between two or more member states, could be studied carefully by the member state concerned, and that any suggestions made by the Commission might be taken into consideration by that state, even if it were not legally bound to comply with it.

That requirement was in no sense called in question by the emergency procedure provided by article 38 of the Treaty which remained of an exceptional nature and could not exempt member states from scrupulous fulfilment of their obligations under article 37.

It followed that, where a member state made the disposal of radioactive waste subject to authorization, it had to give

Ministère Public v Deserbais. Case 286/86. Before Lord MacKenzie Stuart, President and Judges G. Bosco, O. Due, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Bahlmann, Y. Galmot, C. N. Kakouris, R. Joliet, T. F. O'Higgins and F. A. Schockweiler. Advocate General Sir Gordon Slynn. (Opinion March 17, 1988) [Judgment September 22].

The application of national rules, requiring cheese of a particular designation to have a certain minimum fat content, to imported cheeses which had been lawfully manufactured and distributed in another member state under the same generic denomination but with a different minimum fat content was incompatible with article 30 of the EEC Treaty and the objectives of the Common Market.

Gerard Deserbais, the manager of a dairy products company had been convicted of having imported and distributed in France, under the designation "Edam", cheese

from the Federal Republic of Germany with a fat content of 34.3 per cent, whereas, on the basis of French legislation, that denomination was restricted to a type of cheese with a minimum fat content of 40 per cent.

That legislation had been adopted in accordance with the Strese Convention of June 1, 1951.

Deserbais appealed against that conviction on the ground principally that, since German Edam was legally and traditionally produced and distributed in Germany, the French authorities could not oppose its importation into France provided that adequate information was provided for consumers, nor could the authorities rely upon the provisions of the Strese Convention in order to avoid the application of Community rules.

The Cour d'Appel (Court of Appeal), Colmar, stayed its proceedings and referred a question to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows: In the absence of common rules on the distribution of the products concerned, obstacles to the free movement of goods arising from the differences between national rules had to be accepted to the extent to which such national rules, indistinctly applicable to national products and imported products, might be justified as being necessary to satisfy mandatory requirements relating to consumer protection and to the fairness of commercial transactions.

It was apparent from the order for reference that the designation "Edam" was neither a registered designation of origin nor an indication of origin, terms which referred to a product coming from a specific geographical area. It was merely the trade name of a type of cheese.

Moreover, in the Strese Convention, the term "Edam" was not included among registered designations of origin but among denominations of cheeses.

In that regard the starting point of the national court was the finding that the cheese in question, with a 34 per cent fat content, had been traditionally and fairly produced and distributed in Germany under the denomination "Edam" in accordance with the rules applicable there, and that appropriate information for consumers was provided by labelling.

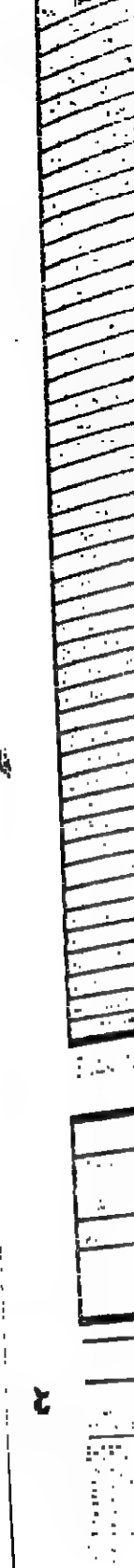
At the present stage of development of Community law there were no common rules governing the denominations of different types of cheese in the Community. In those circumstances it could not be denied that, in principle, a member state might establish rules for its

national producers which subjected the use of a particular denomination for cheese to the observance of a traditional minimum fat content.

However, it would be incompatible with article 30 of the EEC Treaty and with the objectives of the Common Market to extend the application of such rules to imported cheeses of the same type where they had been lawfully manufactured and distributed in another member state under the same generic denomination but with a different minimum fat content.

The importing member state could not obstruct the importation and distribution of such cheeses provided that consumers were properly informed.

The objective of the rules contained in the Codex Alimentarius, established by the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization, was to define the characteristics of those products. However, the simple fact that a product did not conform entirely to the rules laid down did not imply that its distribution might be prohibited.



Sterling index compared with 1978 was up at 75.2 (day's range 75.0-76.2).


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FAMILY MONEY

Jitters on house prices

Fall on the way, say the experts

House prices in London and the South-East are actually about to fall.

After months in which the pundits have been warning of a slow-down in house price rises, the latest round of mortgage increases that has boosted loan rates to 12.75 per cent, 13 per cent and more has brought predictions of actual reductions.

Evelyn Brodie, of merchant bank Morgan Grenfell, believes house prices in London, the South-East, East Anglia and other pockets that have seen spectacular price gains are set to fall by 10 per cent. She says: "A 10 per cent adjustment is necessary to bring them into line with earnings. We don't know when house price inflation nationwide will hit zero, but we estimate it will be within the next six months."

"Then house prices will be stable for the next two years." Although Morgan Grenfell expects actual price falls in the South-East, these will represent large falls in real prices if inflation is taken into account. But in the rest of the country, although actual prices may not drop, there will still be a drop in real terms.

Historically we have always been better off when rates rise as we had more savings than borrowings at variable rates. But since 1986 that has changed, and last year the personal sector was a net debtor on variable rate assets to the tune of £17 billion. More than two-thirds of personal debt is mortgages.

So Mrs Brodie believes that a squeeze is on the way as mortgage providers worry about their security.

Donald Franklin, an economist at Schroders, also believes house prices are set to fall. "They are so far out of line with reality," he says.

But he does not expect prices to fall for a few months until the impact of higher mortgage rates has been felt.

More than a third of borrowers have mortgages that are adjusted annually.

Nationwide, whose new higher rates will be felt in February, believes that this shift in the amount people pay will trigger the slow-down in house price rises.

Nationwide expects the overall rises for 1988 to be around 20 per cent followed by a downward drift next year.

At the Halifax, where the rises take effect in April, the corporate planner Gary Marsh is forecasting overall house price rises next year of

10 per cent. "But it could be in single figures if base rates rise further," he says. "However, there will be falls in some localities such as Docklands."

He does not believe that house prices will actually tumble as they have done in West Germany and The Netherlands. In those countries there is a large rented sector, so when confidence in house prices is shaken people sell their homes and move into rented accommodation.

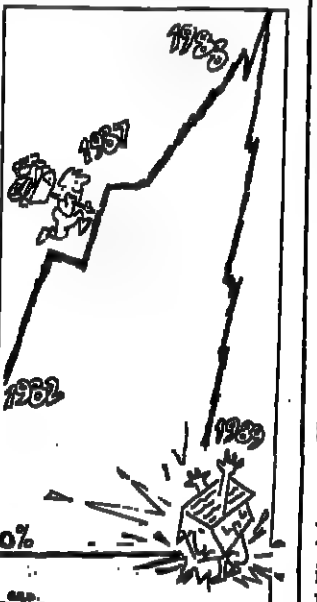
In Britain, which has so little rented property, people delay their move and the market for houses becomes sluggish but prices do not actually fall.

Building society commitments last month fell to their lowest level since January. The societies pledged to lend 25 per cent less in August than in July, as the impact of higher interest rates and the ending of multiple mortgage tax relief was much greater than the normal seasonal effect of summer holidays.

The Building Societies Association believes Britain may be over the peak in the housing market cycle.

There are many apocryphal stories about people who have sold their homes and moved into rented property — one even concerns the finance director of a public company whose view on property prices was so strong that he decided to sell up to await the tumble.

The annual adjustment to



mortgage payments means that home-owners will feel a steep rise. Mortgage rates at the Halifax, for instance, were 10.3 per cent at the beginning of the year, then went down to 9.8 per cent in March, and back up to 11.5 per cent in August, before the rise to 12.75 per cent, which takes effect on October 1.

The Halifax, along with several other building societies, including the Abbey National, offers a 0.5 percentage point reduction for those with loans of £60,000 and higher.

Vivien Goldsmith
The man who is gambling on prices holding up, page 26

The prof with his eye on money

If you have your minds on higher things — such as a 13 per cent mortgage rate — I bring tidings of great joy, writes Maggie Drummond. Interest rates will be down by January, private investors will be venturing back into the stock market in 18 months, and we shall all be wondering what the fuss was about.

These are not my predictions, but the views of Dr Alec Chrystal, the newly installed National Westminster Professor of Personal Finance at the City University, London — Britain's first personal finance professor.

So what does a professor of personal finance do? Dr Chrystal has a course for undergraduates and another for postgraduates taking economics or business courses. Personal finance is not a core subject. His courses will be options for budding bankers studying such things as personal savings behaviour, ignored as an academic subject until now and introduced presumably so that they can eventually make even more money out of us than they already do. But 48-year-old Professor Chrystal points out: "The course is not about advising people to invest their money."

He was Professor of Economics at Sheffield University before taking up his present appointment. He started his career at Essex University, and he still seems amazed that the young people he teaches nowadays actually want to be bank managers and chartered accountants.

"We'll be looking at trends in personal savings," he said. "What really interests me is why, in 1979 when Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister, the personal savings ratio was 16 per cent and now it is only 4 per cent — despite the fact that we are supposed to be living in the era of the private capitalist and savings have been encouraged."

I suggested weekly that we were all spending too much, but apparently it is not as simple as that. The problem is that we keep measuring savings as a proportion of income. We completely ignore wealth, which for most of us is the amount of equity we have tucked up in our houses.

Dr Chrystal believes we are still a little puritanical about money. Take, for instance, the way pundits have been attacking the easy availability of credit as if it were some terrible moral sickness about

which something should be done. Dr Chrystal points out that 80 per cent of all consumer borrowing is secured against property — hardly irresponsible lending from an institution's point of view.

He is dead against tampering with market forces by reintroducing credit restrictions. "No institution is in business to lend to people who can't pay, is it?" he says. However, he confesses himself baffled by consumers who are prepared to pay interest rates of up to 30 per cent on credit cards.

"Anyone who moans about the new freedom in financial matters ought to think back to how awful it used to be in the 1960s and 1970s, when it was hard to get a loan," he says.

Dr Chrystal thinks we regard economics as we do the weather — something is always wrong. If the pound is low it is bad news. If it is high, then it is still bad news.

He almost managed to persuade me that high mortgage rates were good news, as they showed that the market was really working. This is the kind of optimism you find in the United States.

"Yes, it's quite noticeable," he said. "If I get an invitation to lecture from an American university they write and say how much money they will pay. When you get an invitation from a British university they offer you 'their usual consideration'."



Professor Chrystal: "High mortgage rates are good news"

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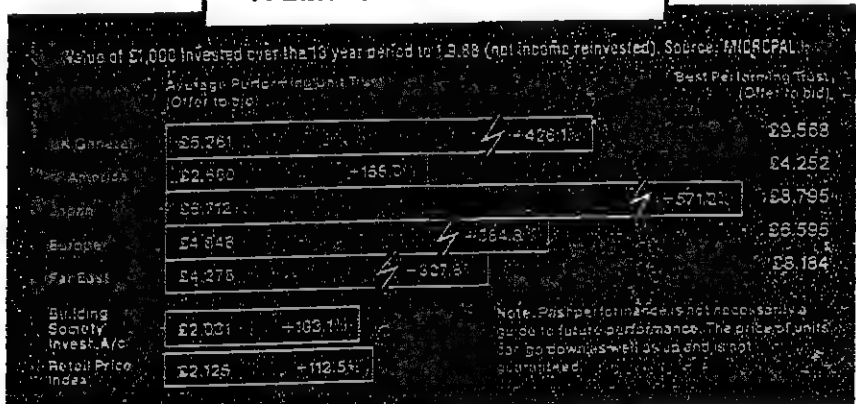
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"I therefore propose to create the Business Expansion Scheme to include companies specialising in the letting of residential property on the new assured tenancy basis."

EXTRACT FROM MICHAEL LAMBSON'S 1988 INDEPENDENT SPEECH PT 17-18

"In his Budget the Chancellor proposed an important extension of the Business Expansion Scheme (BES) to investment in companies specialising in letting residential property on new assured tenancy terms. The aim of the new extension was to encourage the provision of private rental property in order to give a wider range of choice in the housing market and, in particular, to facilitate home mobility. The Chancellor also proposed to allow the investor in approved BES funds to get tax relief by reference to the closing date for investments in the Fund (rather than the date the fund invests the money). The BES relief will be available in respect of shares issued by qualifying companies after Royal Assent to the Finance Bill (usually given in late July)."

The 1988 Finance Act was passed on 26th July 1988 PT 17-18

"The Business Expansion Scheme has been a great success in the past and it is hoped that the new extension will allow investors to take advantage of the scheme in the future. There has been a lot of interest in the scheme since it was introduced and it is hoped that it will continue to be successful."

The BES Magazine July 1988

URGENT

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FAMILY MONEY

DIY chain-breaking

SIMON ELLIS tells how he was stuck in one of those notorious property chains — and how he bought two houses instead of one to get things moving

The bank manager said it was "extremely unusual but it seems to make good financial sense". I was asking him to lend me £65,000 so that I could complete the house-selling chain in which I was stranded by buying the house at the bottom of it all and immediately reselling it.

The newly built house I really wanted, in Great Chesterford, near Cambridge, had been finished for some time. The builder's patience was wearing thin and the third deadline for exchanging contracts on its purchase was now less than two weeks away.

The chain appeared jinxed. At one point we had even reached the day for exchanging contracts, only to find that the pathetically ill-informed, first-time buyers had arrived at their solicitor's office without enough money to proceed. They pulled out, even though the other members of the chain offered to make up the £1,700 shortfall. A hurried attempt at reselling the property ground to a halt when the vendor went on holiday.

After six months, three estate agents, four buyers for my house and the loss of my initial target house because I had been jinxed to the tune of £10,000, I just could not face starting all over again.

But if I failed to meet the builder's final deadline he would quite reasonably put the house back on the market. The price would rise by £10,000 — in line with the rest of the Cambridge area where values have shot up by as much as 50 per cent so far this year. That would put it far beyond my reach.

The other obvious alternative was a bridging loan, but the costs were frightening — £1,100 to set up, plus interest charges of £1,600 a month. It



The dual purchaser: Simon Ellis at the house he bought to make sure of meeting a deadline

would be expensive enough if it ran for two months, but financially crippling if the sort of delays already experienced spun matters out for six months or more.

I decided that it would be far less risky to buy the house at the bottom of the chain and sell it immediately. The higher price I could get would offset at least some of the costs of the transaction. Because it was a first-time buyer's house, there would be no problems with chains.

Vendor thought he was being conned

In fact, the idea proved a little too unusual for the vendor. He refused to sell me his flat, apparently thinking some elaborate confidence trick was being worked that might leave him destitute. Undeterred, I bought the next house up the chain, which turned out to be better value and situated on the same estate in Bishop's Stortford.

But borrowing the money proved difficult. My own bank would put up the cash only if it also provided my mortgage, on terms that I did not like.

Other banks would not touch an open-ended bridging loan to someone who was not

a customer — so much for all these advertisements suggesting banks are desperate for our custom. I did find a loan company specialising in bridging loans but its terms were pretty steep — 1.25 per cent to set up and interest at 4.5 percentage points over base rate.

Eventually I approached the Cambridge branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland, where the assistant manager actually listened to my tortuous logic. He agreed to lend the money, provided I transferred my business to his bank, including a hefty deposit to cover the interest charges.

The terms were 1 per cent to set up, and interest at 3 points over base rate. That meant the cost of buying and selling the Bishop's Stortford house was about £3,500. It was made up as follows:

- Loan arrangement, £650
- Legal fees, £650
- Stamp duty, £675
- Land Registry, £200
- Estate agents, £1,300

Time was crucial, given that the costs of holding the house would be around £810 a month. I found myself in the curious position of trying to explain to estate agents that I wanted to sell a house that I did not yet own.

It went on the market the day after I exchanged contracts to buy it, with the vendors sportingly agreeing to show people around on my behalf. One woman viewed it twice — raising hopes that I might sell it before I completed its purchase. That would have given the lawyers something to get their teeth into. Sadly, she found someone else.

The agents believe the house should fetch £74,950, nearly £7,500 more than the

Lower risk for the first-time buyers

£67,500 price I paid for it. Deducting the £3,500 costs leaves around £4,000 to pay for any interest charges. That means the first five months are covered, taking me up to the middle of next February.

The string of increases in interest rates and the impact on the housing market hardly help matters. Indeed, I would be pretty worried if I were trying to sell a larger house quickly in the present climate. But I believe the risk is less at the first-time buyer end of the market. After all, mortgage rates still are not much higher than last year's levels and that seems unlikely to stop people wanting their own home.

Chequing in for charity

The British Cheque Collectors' Society and the auctioneers Phillips are putting a rum collection of cheques under the hammer next Friday in aid of leukaemia research, writes Vivien Goldsmith.

A letter and cheque for £400 for the Leukaemia Research Fund, written by Cynthia Payne, who shot to infamy during the Luncheon Vouchers-for-sex court case, is perhaps the most surprising of the lots on offer.

The letter is written on notepaper with a bold LV insignia, a drawing of a topless woman with a whip and a man with horns. It is being sold, along with a cheque for £3,000, written by John Paul Getty Jr.

The lot is expected to raise

some day. The sales, which are being held at different times, coincide with the International Banknote Society meeting in London.

Among the notes on sale at Sotheby's will be one of the last provincial banknotes to be issued — a £5 note from the Wellington Bank, Somerset, dated March 1, 1921, and produced by Fox Fowler & Co. It is being sold as part of a lot with seven other banknotes of earlier dates, and is expected to make £500.

There is also a South Sea Co power of attorney for £200 worth of stock, dated 1714. This large and impressive document, which is expected to make up to £1,000, was virtually worthless nine years after it was issued, when the South Sea bubble burst.

Sotheby's is also holding a banknotes, coins, bonds and historical medals sale on the

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	(5 years)	(Fund Launch)
MERCURY RECOVERY FUND*	£3,224	£6,363
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Building Society Higher Rate Account*	£1,451	£1,809
Retail Price Index	£1,251	£1,504

* Offer to bid prices; net income reinvested; † 1% above Building Society Ordinary Share Rate. Source: MICROPAL

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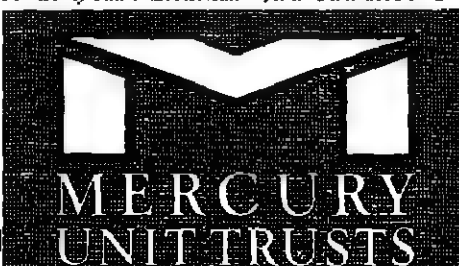
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Units in Mercury Recovery Fund will be allocated to all potential applicants at the offer price next calculated (in accordance with S.I. 280 of 1988) following receipt of the order. Valuations are based on UK share prices taken at 10.00 a.m. You may buy or sell units on any business day between 9.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Contract notes for purchases of units will normally be issued on the business day following the day on which the purchase price is determined. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 21 days of the Managers receiving payment and full registration details.

Units may be sold back to the Managers at any time by telephone or in writing. A cheque for repurchase proceeds will normally be issued within four working days of receipt by the Managers of the unit certificate, with the reverse side completed and signed.

The most recent offer (buying) and bid (selling) prices of units and gross estimated annual yield are published daily in the Financial Times and other leading newspapers.

On 12th September, 1988 the offer price for Accumulation units was 300.3p and for Distribution units was 270.2p. The estimated gross annual yield was 2.75 per cent. The maximum permitted difference on that day between offer and bid price was 8.6 per cent. although the quoted difference was 6.0 per cent. An initial charge of 5 per cent. is included in the offer price and an annual charge of currently 1 per cent. (rising to 1½ per cent. from 1st November, 1988), plus VAT, of the value of the Fund is deducted, normally from the Fund's income. On giving at least 3 months' written notice, the Managers may increase the initial charge to 5½ per cent. Dividends are paid net of basic-rate tax (or reinvested net in the case of Accumulation units to increase their value). Higher-rate taxpayers may have a liability to tax at their higher rate. Any disposal of units may be subject to Capital Gains Tax. The CGT exemption for 1988/89 is £5,000.

The Fund may write or purchase Traded Call Options and purchase Traded Put Options provided they relate to securities which are authorised investments for the Fund. In addition, it may invest in the USM in the UK.

Commission is payable in accordance with LAUTRO rules. Rates are available on request from the Managers or from LAUTRO Ltd., on 01-379 0444.

The right to cancel contracts under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1988 will normally be granted in the case of investments made direct with the Managers by individuals and in certain other cases.

Mercury Recovery Fund is an authorised securities scheme under the Financial Services Act 1986 and a "wider-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (member of IMRO and AFSD).

MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN FROM £35

I/We wish to invest £ (min. £35) each month in Accumulation units of Mercury Recovery Fund. (Send no money now. Full terms and conditions and a Direct Debit Mandate will be sent with our acknowledgement. Your first payment will be invested on the 15th day of the month next following receipt by the Managers of your completed Direct Debit.)

ACT BEFORE 31 OCT. 88

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Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title) _____ Full Forename(s) _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

I am/We are over 18. (Particulars and signatures of any joint applicants should be attached). Signature _____ Date _____

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IF YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL ADVISER, YOU SHOULD CONSULT HIM BEFORE INVESTING.

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FAMILY MONEY

Costs that went Bang

Making that cash decision easier

Hands up all those who have bought into a unit trust or life insurance fund on a tip from a friend, or because they liked the look of an advertisement, writes Maria Scott.

Deciding which unit trust or life fund will do well is not easy, and an element of gambling is always involved. However, CityWard, a subsidiary of financial services group, British & Commonwealth, has launched a service for private investors that should reduce mail-biting over financial decision-making.

CityWard's TopFund Investors Index draws on statistics from Micropal, the computerized data base service best known for its unit trust performance statistics. But Micropal admits that although its statistics can show gains over certain periods, and highlight trends in sector performance, they cannot tell you which trusts are performing consistently well against their sector.

TopFund analyses performance over the past five years in nine periods. For every period, investors are told how their investment has fared in percentage terms and its sector ranking. Once a fund has been at, or near, the top of its sector during the past 12 months, and the period before this as well, it will probably continue in this position for some time.

Many fund managers will be feeling more than a little sick when they see what the TopFund Index says about their products. Funds that have shown up well in Micropal's standard performance tables can look much less appealing when measured by TopFund.



Chris Poll: "consistency"

Take Wardley Japan Growth, for instance, which was the top-performing unit trust in the Japan sector over the five years to the beginning of September and fifth best performer of all trusts over five years. However, it has had a much patchier record.

During the nine periods measured by TopFund - between September 1983 and September 1988 - its rankings were seventh, seventh, ninth, 32nd, 14th, second, ninth, 17th and, in the most recent period, 29th. "What these figures do is give a picture of consistency," explained Chris Poll, managing director of Micropal.

There are four TopFund indexes covering unit trusts investing in the UK and overseas and unit-linked life funds, including managed funds, investing in the UK and overseas. New editions are published every quarter. The annual subscription for just one of the four is £59 and the quarterly subscription is £17.50. The complete set costs £236 a year.

The index booklets explain how the measurement system works, but they also go back to basics by explaining principles of sound investment planning.

TopFund Investors Index, London House, Medway Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1JF (0622 691791)

Private investors have come to accept that, for them, direct investment in stocks and shares has become more expensive, despite the promise initially offered by Big Bang, the deregulation of the stock market in October 1986.

The usual explanation is that before Big Bang private investors were pampered by the fixed rates of commission, and were being subsidized heavily by the big institutions. Post Big Bang, brokers competed heavily for institutional business, with commission rates dropping rapidly for their big boys.

Correspondingly, the costs of dealing for individuals have risen, in some cases sharply. In theory, private investors should have been able to benefit from the lower charges levied on institutions by dealing instead, for instance, through unit trusts.

Institutional dealing costs of perhaps 0.55 per cent before Big Bang are now probably around 0.25 per cent for the average fund manager. The more cynical investors will

Many must ask for permission first

not have been surprised that unit trust charges did not drop in the wake of Big Bang. If there was any benefit to the fund managers, it was not passed on to unit-holders.

In fact, two years after Big Bang, some of the unit trust groups are increasing their charges - among them Abbey, Citicorp, Equitable, Fidelity, FS Investment, Gartmore, Legal & General, M.L.A., Providence, Prudential and Scottish Provident.

Although some groups are able to raise their charges within a certain limit without reference to unit-holders, many must first ask permission. Hill Samuel, for instance, is now asking its unit-holders for permission to increase the initial charge from 5 to 6 per cent, and the annual management charge from 1 to 1.5 per cent "in order to maintain the standards of fund management that clients look to us for", according to the company.

Michael Short, director and general manager of Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers, claims that, for his group, dealing costs have not really gone down. Before Big Bang stockbrokers gave fund managers many of the things they needed free of charge. Now they have to pay for it.

The big bugbear, though, as in so many other areas of investment at present, is the all-pervading Financial Services Act.

"I support investor protection," says Mr Short. "But there is an inevitable cost to the investor. It is a little like an insurance premium. The Financial Services Act is forcing us to put all our charges up front. Nothing can be hidden. Costs that were formerly borne by the fund management company must now be borne by the investor."

The abolition of "rounding-up profits" is one part of this. Companies are also no longer allowed to "deal for the box", creating units and then profiting from selling them to investors later as prices rise.

Although all unit trust groups will admit that rounding-up was formerly quite important to them, none will admit that the box was ever a major source of income, although many insist that their competitors profited greatly from it.

The business of complying with the regulations of the Act is also an important consideration. As Mr Short points out, the necessity for unit trust companies to send out cancellation notices accompanying

contract notes has doubled the paperwork on every deal.

Prudential Holborn is another group that has raised its charges. Prudential's spokesman claims that running a unit trust has simply become much more expensive, partly as a result of compliance and partly because of the ending of rounding profits.

But the company also frankly admits that the lower level of investor interest in unit trusts at the moment has a part to play in the decision to increase its charges.

Philip Chappell, of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, merely rubs his hands with glee at such reasoning. "It seems to me that unit trusts are making a



Michael Short: no reduction

classic marketing error by increasing charges, because volumes are lower," he said. "They should, on the contrary, be decreasing costs to tempt investors."

With all the zeal of a missionary bringing the word to the as yet unenlightened masses, he continued: "Investment trusts, of course, have always operated as low-cost producers and their savings schemes are increasingly recognized as the cheap entry point for those wanting to hold equities."

"It is a statistical certainty that if buying a portfolio of shares costs four times as much as an identical portfolio

initially, and if the annual fee is 1 per cent higher, then that investor is going to underperform."

There certainly seems to be a glaring difference between many unit trusts and those investment trusts that have set up savings schemes and may have an annual management fee of just 0.5 per cent and in-and-out transaction costs of only 2 per cent.

The association is also looking into the practicality of offering a retail trading service in investment trust shares, so that investors in all funds would have no need of the services of a stockbroker, but that is some way off.

Not all unit trust companies are following the same route. Jonathan Overland says that Royal Trust, where he is marketing executive, felt it was unfair that investors had to pay the 3 per cent commission that would go to intermediaries, even if they approached the company directly.

As a result, its new Prestige Portfolio has no initial charges. Intermediaries recommending it must negotiate fees with their clients instead. Investors can switch between funds in the portfolio without charge, the only penalty being the payment of 0.5 per cent stamp duty on every purchase.

However, set against this, Prestige has a higher than usual annual management charge of 1.9 per cent. Despite this innovation, it looks as though many unit trust companies will instead follow the trend towards higher unit trust prices. Only time will tell whether investors are as cost-conscious as Mr Chappell believes them to be, or whether they will prefer instead to stick with the devil they know.

Simon Rose

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Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to Nationwide Anglia Building Society are available in the Extel Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, 46-50 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DD until 27th September, 1988 and until 10th October, 1988 from:

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TS 24/9/88

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The following table shows the number of times a company has featured in the Top Three positions in surveys of actual results for 10, 15 and 20 year regular contribution with profits personal pension plans carried out by "Planned Savings" magazine, 1974-1988.

COMPANY	1st	2nd	3rd
EQUITABLE LIFE	14	7	1
NPI	4	8	3
PRUDENTIAL	3	4	3
NORWICH UNION	1	2	3
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	1	1	—
SCOTTISH LIFE	1	—	3
SCOTTISH WIDOWS'	1	—	2
NATIONAL MUTUAL	1	—	—
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	1	—	—
PROVIDENT MUTUAL	—	2	7
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE	—	1	1
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	—	1	—
SUN ALLIANCE	—	1	—
STANDARD LIFE	—	—	2
EQUITY & LAW	—	—	1
SCOTTISH AMICABLE	—	—	1

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FAMILY MONEY

The taxman smiles on BES

The Inland Revenue had a last-minute change of heart this week and agreed to extend the deadline for back-dated tax relief on Business Expansion Scheme investments by three weeks.

Provided the BES investment is made before October 27, the investor will be allowed to claim up to half of the first £10,000 at last year's tax rates—that is, up to 60 per cent. Previously, the investment had to be made before October 6.

Several BES sponsors asked the Treasury for an extension on the grounds that the postal strike had delayed the issue of prospectuses and that many investors would not have time to get their money in before October 6.

Despite an earlier refusal to extend the time limit, Matrix Securities, one of the sponsors that had pleaded for more time, received Treasury confirmation this week that the deadline had been extended.

Matrix had complained that the cost to small companies of issues aborted by the effects of the postal strike would be prohibitive. Peter Thomson, a Matrix director, said three of the four companies Matrix was sponsoring would extend their closing dates to take advantage of it.

Graham Cox, group economist and development manager for the Sun Life Bessemer property fund, said the decision was a "welcome bolt out of the blue" and the fund's closing date would be extended from October 5 to October 26.

Mr Cox said it would have been difficult for Sun Life to bring in the £30 million it had set its sights on if there had not been an extension. The value of the extra money would more than outweigh the cost of informing prospective investors of the changed date.

Mail shots for Bessemer had been disrupted by the post strike and brokers had not been able to communicate properly with their clients, said Mr Cox.

Nationwide Anglia Building Society is also planning to extend the closing date of its fund from October 5 to October 26, but it is holding talks with the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and the Revenue before deciding.

Jan Hildreth, of Minister Trust, which is sponsoring a

BES company, Crampian Assured, and a fund, the 4th Minister Trust BES Fund, said he expected both would extend their closing dates.

A similar story came from Chancery, sponsor of London Town Assured, which had intended to close on October 5. But Craig Reader, an associate director of Chancery, said he expected the company's two other issues—First

Cambridge Assured Properties and Albany Development & Construction—were likely to be fully subscribed by their closing dates of October 1 and 5 respectively.

Capital Assured Properties, sponsored by the Edinburgh fund management group Hodgson Martin, intends to extend its closing date from October 5 to October 26.

Issues are continuing to come on to the market, and analyst BES Investment has noted the details of more than 40 issues. Although more than half of them are investing in rental properties, there are some unusual propositions, including manufacturers of false teeth and powered wheelchairs.

Maria Scott

TENANCY ISSUES

Company/Fund	Sponsor/Manager	Specialization	Closing date	Min inv	Share price/property price
Assured Property Management	Centenary	None specified	Oct 24	£1,000	95-131-157
Assured Property Trust	Chancery	London property	Nov 26	£2,000	90-126-151
Bristol Investment Properties	Merica	Houses and flats	Oct 5	£550	97-134-154
Buckingham Assured Properties	Orlando Business	South-west London property	Oct 1 and 5	£1,000	94-131-153
Burlington Estates	None	Properties mainly in London and South-East	Sept 30	£3,000	95-140-176 (with gearing)
Capital Assured Properties	Hodgson Martin	Scotland	Oct 26 likely	£1,000	98-135-154
Cavendish Wailes First Assured	Smith & Williamson	New houses in South-East and East Anglia	Oct 26	£1,000	100-136-165
City North Properties	None	Central London houses for young tenants	Oct 2	£500	112-144-169
First Cambridge Assured Properties	Chancery	New properties in Cambridge	Oct 1	£1,000	89-123-147
First CAVE Assured Tenancy Fund	Capital Ventures	Fund investing in at least four tenancy companies	Oct 5	£5,000	98-131-154 est
First Johnson Fry Residential Scheme	Johnson Fry	Managed scheme: investors select from 7 regions or income flexibility	Apr 5	£2,000	109-148-171 est
First Roman Property Trust	Capital	Sheltered housing	Oct 5-26	£1,000	128-175-201
Brimpton Assured	Minister Trust	Aberdeen	Oct 26 likely	£500	85-118-142
Kent Mailings	Ilco	Kent, including a conversion of Mailings in Gravesend	Nov 4	£2,000	94-152-191 (with gearing)
Lazard Residential Property Fund	Lazard DCS	None	Oct 5/Nov 30	£2,500	94-122-137 est
Link Assured Houses	Williams de Broe	Houses in Worthing, Portsmouth, Bedford, Cambridge	Oct 5	£10,000	98-132-169 (includes benefit from tax-efficient loans)
London Town Assured Properties	Chancery	"Up and coming" London areas	Oct 26 likely	£1,000	92-127-152
Nationwide Anglia First Fund	Nationwide Anglia	None	Oct 5	£2,000	100-137-163 est
Norfolk Properties	Wise Spoke	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	Oct 4	£1,000	103-139-165
Northumbria Residential Properties	Overseas Corporate Funds (UK)	Newcastle	Oct 14	£1,000	101-135-156
Retirement Assured	Capital Ventures	Sheltered housing	Oct 9	£3,000	88-130-155
Sun Life Bessemer Fund	Sun Life	None	Oct 26	£2,000	98-130-156 est
Yorkshire Housing Trust	Capital for companies	New flats in Leeds	Oct 4/Nov 25	£2,000	101-137-165

* The effect of property price increases on share values, including effects of size, rental, interest rates, gearing and income streams, based on a 100p share. First column assumes no rise in property values, second a 50 per cent rise and third a 100 per cent rise. For example, 100p worth of shares in Assured Property Management would be worth 150p if property prices were static, 150p with a 50 per cent increase and 150p if property prices doubled. (Source: BES Investment) (01 353 1072)

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Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '89	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1970	1,176	857	1,080
1975	2,640	1,112	1,468
1980	10,256	1,729	2,154
1985	27,880	4,947	3,240
21 SEPT '88	56,160	6,757	3,952*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 23 May 1989 would have grown to £56,160 by 21 September 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 21st September 1988

offered price and estimated gross current yields were:

Income Accumulation Yield Spread

Recovery 550-4p 744-1p 3-62% 5-67%

Dividend 552-2p 1,742-4p 5-14% 5-67%

SECOND 944-6p 1,963-9p 3-40% 5-66%

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the "offer" price (at which you buy units) and the "bid" price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 1% for Recovery and Second General and 1% for Dividend - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

Recovery Dividend SECOND

Distributions 20 Feb 15 Jan 15 Feb 20 Aug 15 July 15 Aug

Applications required by 23 Dec '88 18 Nov '88 9 Dec '88 for next distribution on 20 Feb '89 15 Jan '89 15 Feb '89

Capital gains tax 1982/89. An individual's first £5,000 of realised capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982 are not now subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1982 are subject to indexation relief.

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement by the date shown on the contract note. The trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank, Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider-range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

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Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G CAPITAL	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '84	—	—	£1,000	£1,000
1965	£40	£38	1,020	1,000
1970	46	49	1,076	1,000
1975	63	72	1,630	1,000
1980	166	103	2,428	1,000
1985	228	87	6,516	1,000
21 SEPT '88	368	65*	10,416	1,000

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. £1,000 invested in M&G Dividend Fund income units on 6 May 1984 would have produced an income of £68 in 1988 and the capital would have grown to £10,416 by 21 September 1988. *Estimated for the year.

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Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '58	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1960	1,952	2,008	1,167
1965	3,132	2,833	1,377
1970	4,648	3,054	1,742
1975	7,984	3,962	2,366
1980	19,540	5,180	3,476
1985	54,600	17,624	5,228
21 SEPT '88	91,604	24,068	6,377*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Second General on 5 June 1958 would have grown to £91,604 by 21 September 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

Scheme Particulars will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1PL. Tel: (0245) 266266.

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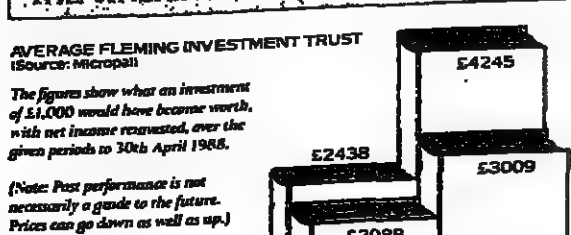
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PERFORMANCE FIGURES TO SEPT 1988

£25 A MONTH	5 YEARS (from 1 Sept 83)	10 YEARS (from 1 Sept 78)	15 YEARS (from 1 Sept 73)
Amount paid in	1,500	3,000	4,500
M&G Recovery	2,672	9,937	38,123
M&G Dividend	2,451	10,113	29,083
M&G SECOND	2,288	8,922	25,302
Building Society	1,821	4,562	8,577

All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are all realisation values. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

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THE M&G GROUP

FAMILY MONEY

Conal Gregory, Master of Wine, looks at investment opportunities in wine

New season, keen bids

The fine wine auction season was uncorked last week with an important Bordeaux sale at Christie's in London.

At the season's first sale 92 per cent was sold, realizing £240,208. Phillips' Oxford sale was on Tuesday and Sotheby's was on Wednesday in London. International Wine Auctions has sales on September 29, October 8 and December 3.

The quality market is buoyant. Christie's reports 36 per cent more wine in total value sold in the first seven months of this year than in the corresponding period last year. Several new UK and overseas buyers are in the market. Although North Americans will bid for the rarest and finest, their place at the standard quality sales has been taken by West German, Hong Kong and Swiss buyers.

Claret, backbone of any investment cellar, is a firm market. The very young vintages do not usually appear at auction as they are available from merchants. The 1986, to be shipped next year, already shows its style and quality, and the 1985, although the largest claret vintage ever, has the concentration to last with a 15- to 20-year view for the best wines. The year 1984 saw fair wines in the Médoc but disappointing results in St. Emilion and Pomerol.

Clarets of 1983 are "undervalued", says Michael Broadbent, head of Christie's. He commends lesser rated estates



such as Léoville-Barton and Grand Puy Lacoste from St Julien and Pauillac respectively, not only for this year, but also for 1981 and 1982. Grand Puy Lacoste 1983 failed to reach its reserve last week, and Gruaud-Larose 1983 made only £90,498 per dozen bottles.

Sotheby's offered several 1983s this week - Lafite-Rothschild magnums and Pichon-Longueville-Lalande. However, no claret investment should be without 1982, the finest vintage since 1961.

Although first growths such as Lafite-Rothschild sell for £550-£650, Stephen Mould, of

Sotheby's, says there are still bargains. Sotheby's sold Château Beycheville for £125 per dozen bottles in July, and auctioned La Lagune (estimate £140-£180) and Lynch-Bages (£150-£200) on Wednesday.

Few price rises are expected for the 1979-81 claret vintages, which make for good drinking now, but 1978s are still worth buying as prices have been static for some time. Last week Ducru-Beaucaillou sold for £250 and Latour for £460.

Mr Broadbent feels 1976 needs drinking and is fairly priced, but says there is little

call for 1972 to 1974 vintages. The 1970 Médoc wines are expected to rise noticeably in the next two years. Margaux was £500 and Lafite-Rothschild £650 in July. But it may be better to dispose of St. Emilion and Pomerol and reinvest.

Few stocks from the Business Expansion Schemes have yet come to auction. As these stocks are mainly in 1982-83 claret and port of the 1980 and 1983 vintages, now is not the best time to sell.

Americans want quality white wines, so classic burgundies such as Corton Charlemagne and Montrachet are much sought-after at auction. Christie's will be selling the 1982 Louis Latour Corton Charlemagne at an estimated £260 to £280 later this month. A good and modestly estimated range was sold at Sotheby's in West Sussex yesterday.

Domaine de la Romanée Conti wines continue to attract most interest in red burgundy, but stocks are limited. For good but less outstanding, look at such wines as Grivot's Vosne Romanée 1985 (£125 to £160 estimate at Sotheby's).

The French government has blocked the sale of the Romanée-Conti vineyards to the Japanese Takashimaya group, but interest will also focus on the Rhône vineyards to the south. The small vineyard of Château Grillet is worth collecting. In July Sotheby's sold three bottles of its 1959 for £90.

On dessert Bordeaux, Mr Broadbent says 1975 is particularly good to buy and reasonably priced. Certainly, to add to this, the 1983 Sauterne is outstanding and still modestly priced. Coutet made £155-£165 and Rieussec £210 at Christie's auction last week. Even d'Yquem at £1,050 per dozen bottles (estimate £850-£1,000) will show good appreciation.

BRIEFING

The tax man goes easy, and speeds up the refunds

■ Payment of tax rebates is being given priority by the Inland Revenue as it catches up after the postal dispute.

The Revenue also said it would show leniency over strike-delayed payment of bills and filing of returns. "Some statutory time limits may have been missed by taxpayers because of the postal delays," it said. "In these cases the Inland Revenue will treat the deadlines as met unless there are indications that factors other than postal delays meant that time limits were missed." A spokesman said tax inspectors would use their discretion if it was not immediately clear whether the post problems were to blame for missed deadlines. People who had simply not paid a bill because they did not think it would get to the Revenue would not qualify for lenient treatment because it was possible to pay through a bank. However, all tax payments considered to have been genuinely trapped in the postal system will be treated as having been received on August 31. But no other relaxations in the rules for charging interest are proposed.

Pensioners' bonus

■ Norwich Union is promoting a motor insurance policy giving extra benefits to retired people, believing they are less likely to have accidents. The main advantage is lower premiums. The discount varies depending on the motorist's car and address. But the driver of a Volvo 340, living in central London, with full no-claims discount, would save £225 a year for a standard Norwich Union policy. Under Motoring Gold, the premium would be £190. The policy also includes legal help to pursue uninsured losses and a special service through National Breakdown for transport home after an accident. Motoring Gold is available to retired people aged from 55 to 75.

Generous Laing

■ As mortgage rates go up again Laing Homes is offering to soften the blow for buyers of its houses by subsidizing increases in mortgage rates during the first 12 months. The subsidy applies to mortgages from any lender but Laing uses the Halifax Building Society rate to determine how much it will give back. Any move above 11.5 per cent means Laing starts reimbursing the difference between that and the new rate. This week the Halifax rate rose to 12.75 per cent. For first-time buyers there is an additional incentive to buy a Laing home.



Coming Home through Holden Clough, above, by Helen Bradley, costing £6,500, will be among the paintings at a new Twentieth-Century British Art Fair, being held from next Friday to October 4 at the Cumberland Hotel, central London.

Fifty dealers will be showing at the Fair, which will be opened by the jazz singer George Melly. Prices range from

£250 to as high as £60,000, and the works include paintings by British Impressionists, surrealists, Neo-romantics and Enston Road and post-war Realism artists. There will also be an exhibition of 17 works from The Slade School of Fine Arts on display.

Admission costs £5 and includes an illustrated catalogue.

The company will pay stamp duty, legal costs up to £350 and valuation fees.

Calmer now

■ If a recent survey by the Gartmore group is anything to go by, unit trust holders who have stayed in for the ride since the crash have a fairly relaxed attitude to their holdings now. Nearly 10,000 of Gartmore's 105,000 investors responded to a questionnaire about how they intended to handle their portfolios in the near future. More than half said they intended to leave their investments as they were for the next six months. A quarter said they would rebalance their portfolios by switching into other unit trusts, and more than a fifth said they intended to increase their holdings.

Tips for women

■ Women who feel they need advice on managing their finances can now turn to a new Midland Bank guide. Although much of the information applies equally to men, it deals with aspects of money management that are particularly relevant to women, such as maternity allowances and the effects of marriage on a woman's tax position. It also reminds women that certain aspects of financial planning are just as important to them as to men, such as making a will and planning for retirement. Midland Bank Guide: Women and Money, by Marie Jennings, is published by Penguin at £4.99.

Fast glass service

■ Commercial Union has added a time-saving service to policies covering domestic and commercial property. Broken windows can be repaired immediately with no need for a claim form. Using a freephone telephone line, policyholders contact the glazier. Policyholders with full glass cover have no payment to make unless there is an excess on their policy or they are registered for VAT. Policyholders without glass cover get a 25 per cent discount.

■ The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has launched a unit trust dealing service. Investors can buy and sell in any UK authorized fund at their C&G branches. The service will provide execution only - investors will not be able to get advice. C&G already operates an execution-only share dealing service from its branches.

■ A new life assurance company, Hambro Guardian Assurance, was launched this week. It is the result of a joint venture between the estate agent and financial services group Hambro Countrywide and Guardian Royal Exchange. It has £40 million start-up capital and will start writing policies on October 3. The new company will specialize in endowment and pension policies for repaying mortgages and in term assurance for protecting repayment mortgages.

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The year ended 31 July 1988

• Dividend

Second interim dividend, in lieu of the customary final, of 16.0p to give a total of 23.0p, a rise of 9.4% for the year. This departure from normal practice was made as a precaution against any risk that the effect of postal disruption might have made a delay in the payment date necessary.

• Savings Scheme

The number of participants in the savings scheme has continued to grow and there has been a noticeable trend toward the regular investment option where market averaging enables stockholders to ride the gyrations of the stockmarket, acquiring proportionately more units when prices are lower.

• Outlook

The Dollar has recently shown encouraging signs of greater stability and our income position also benefits from higher interest rates on our cash reserves in the short term while they are held for investment when market opportunities occur.

• PEP Scheme

The Personal Equity Plan Scheme met a strong demand in the later months of 1987, after the October 'Crash' and after the Scheme had been extended to include selection from a range of other equities. The maximum investment for 1988 plans was increased to £3,000 after the 1988 Budget and a substantial increase in the number of new plans is expected together with a high renewal rate from last year's participants.

For decades, large investors have known that one of the best ways to make their money grow is by having it actively managed by professional specialists, who are in touch with the markets of the world, and can take fast action when markets rise and fall.

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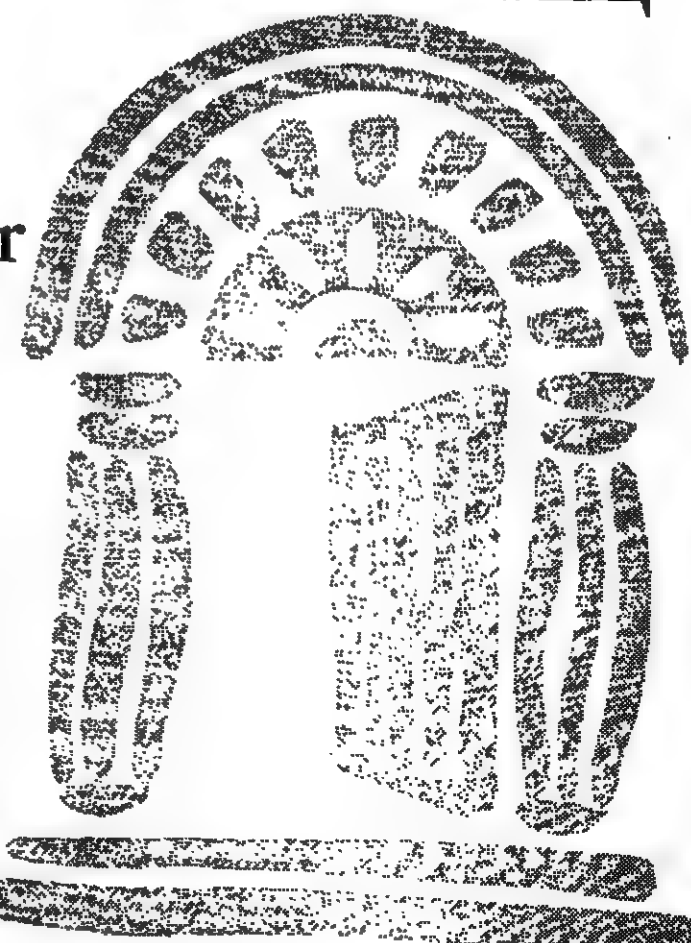
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the constituents of which can be switched quickly and efficiently to meet the specific criteria under which the portfolios are invested.

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FAMILY MONEY

Uncle breaks loose

Pawnbrokers are a changed breed. Their shares are quoted, and their shops are patronized by yuppies. Rachel Warren pays them a visit

Friday lunchtime on London's busy Leather Lane market close to the City, and a young lady dressed in a smartly tailored suit leaves the pawnbrokers £70 richer. "I've just pawned two gold bracelets," says the 21-year-old secretary, who prefers to remain anonymous. "I've got bank debts and I need the money for a holiday in St Lucia in November but I hope to get them back as soon as possible. I get paid next week."

Down on the Eris Court Road the casually dressed man clutching a £5 note is more evasive as he leaves the premises of the Berkeley Credit Company. "I've pawned my tiara, it's worth about half a crown," he jokes, refusing to elaborate.

Inside, David Ahrens, the manager, has the look of a man who would not raise an eyebrow at a tiara. The company has been offered Mercedes, Rolls and Porsches, he says, but has never taken them. "A guy came in with a painting this morning and he wanted the money for the weekend... but valuing items like that is not something you can do at speed."

"Uncle" is changing his image. His clients may still be in dire financial straits, but they are no longer the traditional working class. They are the classless flotsam of Britain's consumer boom. They have over-extended credit plastic in their pocket but no access to cash.

Until recently pawnbrokers' numbers were dwindling rapidly. Their business had been overtaken by more accessible forms of credit, and under the 1872 Pawnbrokers Act, they could lend no more than £50 on any item. But three years ago pawnbroking was absorbed under Credit Consumer Act legislation and today's brokers can, in theory, lend up to £15,000 (though they say the average loan is between £70 and £100). The insubstantial image, too, is fading.

Harvey & Thompson, Britain's leading pawnbrokers, who received a full stockmarket quotation last year, may not boast a posh London address. But their headquarters, just off South London's rough Walworth Road, are above a frontage that could almost belong to a building society. Their clients, mostly young, bring gold chains and rings to the ladies behind the grilles, who assess them, draw up contracts and hand over the cash.

The fortunes of Harvey & Thompson, a 91-year-old business, turned for the better in the early 1980s when Rupert Galliers-Pratt, the present chairman, bought shares in the USM-quoted company. He realized it was in financial trouble, streamlined it and raised extra capital in the City. Shares, which had slumped to 29p, reached £5 just before last October's Stock Market crash; after it they dropped to £3.20 but have subsequently climbed more than half the way back.

Business improved and Harvey & Thompson began expanding again. In the early 1980s they had 11 outlets; they now have 26 and Galliers-Pratt intends to open three or four new branches a year. The company, which was making losses in 1982, now notches up annual profit increases of 33 per cent and counts its profits in millions. To these, pawnbroking now contributes about half (the other side of the business is debt-collecting and hire purchase).

Lewis Watson, managing director, joined Harvey & Thompson from the Navy in 1947 and marvels at the post-war transition he has seen. His smart office used to be more like a warehouse. "We took in cameras, radios, vases, sheets, shoes, bedding. We had endless staff — shaft boys pulling up the old pulleys, staff at the other end shouting back and

throwing things down. It was all happening then."

But already pawnbroking was beginning to be seen as an antiquated family trade, and demobbed servicemen didn't want to join it. Dozens of pawnbroking shops closed in the 1950s. Redevelopment in the Sixties buried dozens more. At the same time government policies were eliminating a need that "Uncle" had once satisfied: cash for basic food and clothing.

But now the shops are back, and Watson estimates that 200 to 300 customers pass through their south London branch every day, and more on Saturdays. The company's annual turnover from pawnbroking in 1987 topped £2.5 million.

"Our clients," Watson says, "might formerly have been the so-called working classes pawning objects to pay the rent. Some of them still are. But now we also get salaried people, professionals. Lots of them are business people coming because they have unexpected VAT bills, credit card debts, or even to pay for a second holiday. Most of them are not destitute as they once were."

The traditional English pawnbroker is still part-jeweller, dabbling in both sides of the business. Many of the 200 members of the National Pawnbroking Association are from old established businesses which the newcomers are now buying up as they own retire.

Though H & T are firm leaders among the new aggressive pawnbrokers, a former colleague is also doing well. Phil Murphy, who was managing director of Harvey & Thompson before 1981, now runs the up-and-coming Albemarle & Bond.

"Why did I call it that? Well, because it sounded classy and put me at the top of the Yellow Pages," he says. "Murphy's Pawnbrokers didn't quite have the magic ring."

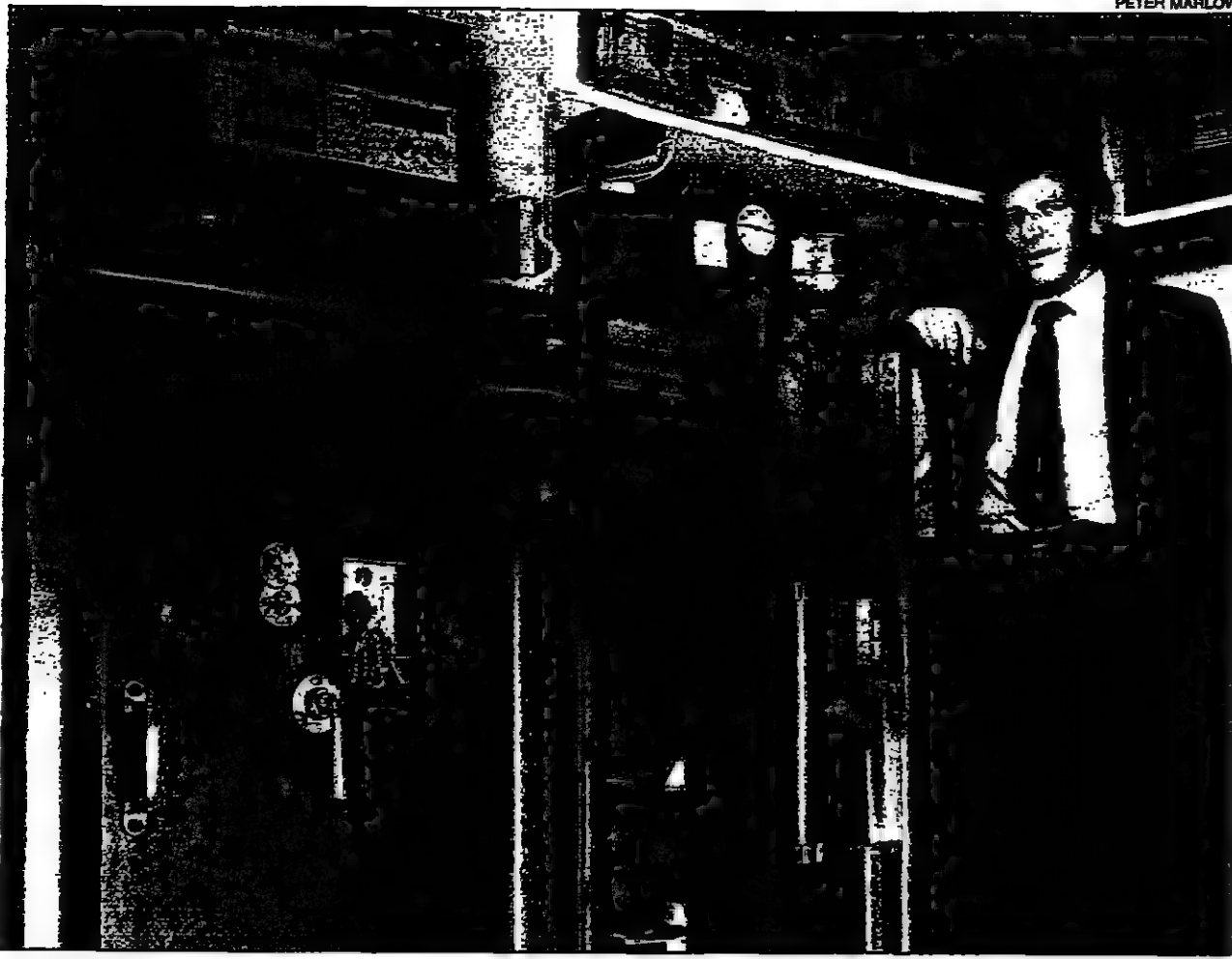
A jeweller rather than a financier by occupation and inclination, he built up his business from one Bristol shop and opened his tenth in Croydon this month. He sees a solid future for pawnbroking and is looking for a full Stock Market quotation around the end of next year.

Among his customers, he says, have been an accountant, a solicitor and a partner in a firm of London stockbrokers. "The biggest single reason is credit cards. Customers never consider their APR (annual percentage rate). I've heard some who think it means 'always pay regular'."

Not all pawnbrokers stick to jewellery. The new and enterprising London Pledge Company, for example, takes in a diversity of valuable goods from portable video cameras to cars. They tell the tale of the man who pawned his Porsche to finance a property deal. It netted him enough to reclaim the vehicle in two months. And last year, they claim, a wealthy customer with a cashflow problem pledged his helicopter with them for three months to enable him to take his sick wife on holiday.

In Wales pawnbroking has all but disappeared; in Scotland, though numbers have declined, the survivors are prospering. Scottish pawnbrokers, who tend to run offices rather than shops, will sometimes accept a set of golf clubs. "But we would much rather take jewellery," says Archie Crockett, director of the Glasgow Pawnbroking Company, whose pledges are up by 50 per cent since 1985. "People up here are borrowing a great deal more these days," he says, "just like the rest of Britain."

Pawnbrokers, Phil Murphy says aggressively, are a much maligned race. "In a funny way we don't create indebtedness; we pick up the pieces when people have got into debt. In fact, we're absolutely lovely."



Phil Murphy, of pawnbrokers Albemarle and Bond: he numbers an accountant, a solicitor and a stockbroker among his clientele

BEHIND THE POP BUSINESS

Do pawnbrokers offer value for money? At first sight the interest rates seem high — Harvey & Thompson's are 24 per cent over six months compared with, say, a bank's 12 to 13 per cent per annum. The Glasgow Pawnbroking Company charges as much as 82.25 per cent per annum. There is no legal limit.

That said, pawnbrokers are perhaps less pernicious than other debt merchants. They have the article pledged, of course, but that is all their debtors stand to lose. And, high as they are, those interest rates seem less extortionate compared with annual percentage rates in the mid-30s now charged by some major store cards.

"We justify our interest rate by the fact that we are lending on a short-term basis," says Lewis Watson, of Harvey & Thompson. "You can come to any of our branches with something valuable and the whole transaction is done within 10 minutes. You can't do that with a bank. They don't want to know about short-term loans."

Consumer protection? The Consumer Credit Act gives the debtor the right, in any credit agreement, to ask a court to judge whether it is

extortionate. But, as a spokesman for the Office of Fair Trading remarked, "it is a bit like asking how long is a piece of string."

In any Harvey & Thompson branch the mechanics of the transaction are quite straightforward. The client brings his object for assessment and the staff, who are trained to value jewellery, hand over some 60 per cent of its worth. The client gets a contract and after six months receives a letter, required by law, reminding him that his contract has expired.

At that time, he or she (60 per cent of their clientele are women) returns and repays the loan plus the 24 per cent interest, and redeems the pledge. About 95 per cent of customers come back and pay, Watson says, for which he is grateful. Indeed, his ideal customer returns time and again with the same object: "We're in the business of interest."

By law, unredeemed goods worth over £50 must go to public auction. In common with other pawnbrokers, Harvey & Thompson sell goods that do not reach reserve price in such auctions through the few jewellers shops they retain.

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Voice

In this autumn
of Acid House
there are echoes
of London's
summers of
love, when boys
and girls came
out to play with
dreams of a
counter-culture.
Jonathon Green
persuaded the
luminaries of
the party to
reassess those
dreams, some
of them now
suspended in a
golden glow of
nostalgia, others
the stuff of
nightmares.

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1988

Voices from the underground

In this autumn of Acid House there are echoes of London's summers of love, when boys and girls came out to play with dreams of a counter-culture. Jonathon Green persuaded the luminaries of the period to reassess those dreams, some of them now suspended in a golden glow of nostalgia, others the stuff of nightmares

HAPPENINGS

Cultural movements do not fit conveniently into 10-year packages. The roots of "the Sixties" lay earlier. Many who would become leaders of the "underground" — US-influenced beatniks, home-grown Angry Young Men, the artistic avant-garde, prototype mods — were already looking towards some form of change as the Fifties drew to a close. They met, among other places, at the Aldermaston marches of CND.

CHRISTOPHER LOGUE: I found myself on the first day of the first Aldermaston march in 1958. It was pouring with rain and there were about 150 of us marching along by London Airport. And then, by the end of the afternoon there must have been 50,000 people. And by the middle of the next day there were 100,000. Now I don't think that CND is of any importance. Not really. It had a much greater social importance than it ever had politically. A lot of people suddenly realized that there were a lot of other people who thought along the same lines as they did and that they were humanists in politics and agnostics in religion and that they did want to create a better society. And they struggled hard to do it, and they took on the whole world, as young people are prepared to do. And the result of it was 10 good years.

JEFF NUTTALL: Dadaists, absurdists, surrealists had always believed that by striking an alternative aesthetic, by undermining the classical mode of representative painting or established harmonic structures in music, you could change the face of society. What happened with the beats was that by merging this transformation of aesthetic pleasure with an attack on political structures you effect a sort of non-specific revolution, which didn't have an alternative set of rules. You'd scrapped the old rules and now, hopefully, a new set of rules would evolve from a way of life that had been established according to human pleasure and generosity. It erupted, I would say, with Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*.

JOHN WILCOCK: Artists are always picking stuff out of the ether, and the first time that many new ideas get expressed is by an artist. Poets are usually writing the kinds of stuff that artists are doing



ROY ELLSWORTH (after Roy Lichtenstein's "Hopeless", 1962)

pictorially. Now historically, the first people after those two have always been coffee-shop pamphleteers, samizdat publishers, underground magazines. It just so happened that the Sixties provided a lot of people who badly needed that new word, because they'd lost all belief and trust in the Establishment word. It found a very ready audience.

JOHNNY BYRNE: In 1961, I started going to Liverpool. And I noticed the great energy and the activity around the scene. I fell in with a group of people who, like me, were absolutely crazy about books by the beats. In a very short time we were turning out our own little magazines. We were into jazz, poetry — straight out of the beatniks — and all around us were the incredible beginnings of the Liverpool scene. We met in a place called the Jacaranda where the Beatles, who could play four chords on their guitars, were just starting. We went off, hitch-hiking "on the road" during one summer. From St. Ives, where we stayed for some of the summer, we then went down to the Beaulieu Jazz Festival, which was in its later phases; there was an amazing meeting between Peter Brown and Mike Horowitz — almost like Stanley and Livingstone meeting. We all recognized kindred spirits. We decided to split the country, rather like the Popes decided to split Europe between Avignon and Rome. [Spike] Hawkins and Byrne would have everything north of Stafford, and Horowitz and Brown would have everything south. And we would set up these readings. So Hawkins and I went straight back to Liverpool to set up the first of the readings at a place called Street's Coffee Bar. The first poetry readings we had were a couple of local jazz musicians and us mainly reading from poems in the *Evergreen Review*. We made trips to Better Books in London to get it.

'A room full of smoke and people falling over each other . . . it was terribly erotic, something you weren't expecting'

MICHAEL HOROVITZ: Around 1960 there evolved certain residencies and so on — the Café des Artistes, the Parisian Café in Soho. Then more and more jazz became involved. And other people started putting on poetry and jazz. And gradually we moved out of London, to Cambridge, to the north-east, and a bit later still to Liverpool. Brown and I took a troupe of musicians to Liverpool and did the first jazz-poetry in the north at the Crane Theatre in Liverpool. At the party afterwards Adrian Henri, who was the host, said, "Oh, this poetry stuff is all right. I think I'm gonna start doing it." (Roger) McGough had read with us in Edinburgh. And (Brian) Patten, who'd sat in the front row of the Crane gig trying to hide his school cap, was this marvellous boy who came up and read rather different, passionate, romantic poems.

PAUL MCCARTNEY: We were all reading Ginsberg and that stuff, everyone was. It's a point that people often miss. They say, for instance, that the Beatles' haircuts were invented by the Beatles, but actually we got this German guy Jürgen Vollmer to try and cut our hair like his. And the point I'm making is that he had a version of the Beatle haircut — and this is Hamburg students. Students the world over were aware of that. So when we came down here to London, all we did really was plug out of the Liverpool student scene and plug into the London student scene. It would be people like John Dunbar, who was a student and Marianne [Faithfull's] husband at the time, Peter Asher, who like us had recently been a student, a bass player down a jazz cellar, although his was Westminster School and a much more privileged upbringing than ours had been, but good, it seemed to be good, they didn't seem to be a snooty crowd. So this was it: like, up north you'd be reading *On the Road*, and they

would be reading *On the Road*. We'd be looking at the same kind of things.

JOHN HOPKINS: "Happening" was the name for a generalized event, thought to be run by an artist. This was an excuse for not following the script. There were some really great happenings at Better Books. A room full of smoke and people sitting around and all falling over each other and it was terribly erotic, something you weren't expecting at all.

WHOLLY COMMUNION

The Albert Hall poetry reading memorialized in Peter Whitehead's documentary film *Wholly Communion*, was held on June 11, 1965. Inspired by a successful solo reading given by Allen Ginsberg at Better Books, it brought the stars of US beat poetry together with their English peers, and a number of distinctly lesser lights. As a reading, it was chaotic — but as a cultural event it was incomparable. It was the climax of beatnik dreams, and the launch of the hippies. Seven thousand people arrived, a vast "alternative" constituency few could have imagined. The Albert Hall, booked for £450, had never seen anything like it. From it came the confidence to found the first "underground institutions": the Indica Gallery, the International Times newspaper, and much more.

MILES: 1965, June. I was managing the paperback section of Better Books. En route to New York from Prague, Ginsberg stopped off in London. He gave a reading at Better Books which, even though we didn't advertise it, was totally packed.

SUE MILES: There was an afternoon when Allen realized that Gregory Corso was in Paris, Ferlinghetti was coming to London, Pablo Neruda and Pablo Fernandez were here, and Andrei Voznesensky. Major international poets, nearly all in London and this should be celebrated: there should be a poetry reading.

MARK BOYLE: It was the technique that was the key thing, the absolutely brilliant technique. They announced to everyone who they were getting. They named three people who were coming from America — Corso, Ferlinghetti and Ginsberg. None of them were booked when they an-

nounced it. But because they announced these three, everyone wanted to be in on it.

CHRISTOPHER LOGUE: Really the thing that made the Albert Hall reading in terms of the number of people who knew about it, and went to it, was the BBC news. It was marvellous weather,

there was a continual atmosphere of goodwill and the opportunity to do things in the air and that lasted for a long time. Alex Trocchi called me up and said: "Why don't you come down to the Albert Memorial? There's a lot of really interesting people just hanging about." This was on the Saturday. So I went down and there were a

lot of people, quite interesting-looking people, and it was fun and it was sunny and the girls were very pretty and what more could you ask for . . . It was a very quiet time in society. There were no troubles, no serious troubles, no great dispute or feeling of anger or hatred. And the BBC had nothing to report on their nine o'clock news. Somebody had told them about this so they came down and they did a long 10-minute item which they put out at 9pm. It was a marvellous item. Clearly the news editors were delighted. And it announced the show and the whole of the south of England saw it, that this poetry reading was going to take place at Albert Hall from six o'clock onwards the following day — you couldn't have asked for better publicity. So the next day the Albert Hall was full.

MILES: By the time we actually reached the Albert Hall, the programme was enormous. Everybody wanted to do something: Bruce Lacey wanted to do something with his robots. He was a mad anarchist — he'd been in the Beatles' first film. Jeff Nuttall was working with him. Their particular event never happened because somehow Jeff got welded to a bath in Sir John Barbirolli's dressing-room backstage. Lacey had filled the bath with some kind of green goo which Jeff got stuck to.

MICHAEL HOROVITZ: Ginsberg insisted on this phrase "You are not alone". It did touch a lot of people, and it was in that poem "Be Kind" Ginsberg wrote specially: "Tonight let's all make love in London . . ." The sort of society that the Albert Hall brought together was largely comprised of people who had read the beat poetry and come to our gigs or generally evolved their own different consciousnesses more or less privately. I think a lot of people came from out of London and hadn't been in cities where there had been much coming together, much communalism. To these people that line, and Mitchell's "Tell Me Lies About Vietnam", did offer a kind of catharsis and revolution and liberation. The Albert Hall event had a different kind of structure, unlike most other demonstrations at the time: people sitting and standing and chanting, dancing and smoking pot; it was mainly very ecstatic and very relaxed. It was a different kind of public meeting that, as far as I know, has never quite been emulated. Among those 7-8,000 people there must have been a few thousand who probably hadn't been to anything like that, hadn't heard the sort of things they'd been thinking or dreaming or confiding to a lover or onto paper articulated in this explicit, bold, celebratory way.

CHRISTOPHER LOGUE: It was incredibly long-winded. You'd get some people on the stand and they had no idea about the audience, they just want to go on and on and you've literally got to tear them off the stand. It was quite funny: you

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VOICES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

PATRICK WARD

From previous page

had to send two other poets up to drag them down.

MILES: In hindsight you can see the poetry reading as a transition between the two parts of the Sixties. It did occur exactly in the middle of the Sixties, summer of '65. It presupposed the flower power era of '67 by the fact that Kate Heliczer and her girlfriends all went down to Covent Garden the night before and picked up all of the flowers that hadn't been sold and they were handing out great armloads of flowers to everyone coming in and their faces were painted in psychedelic markings. It was a pre-indication of what was to come.

JOHNNY BYRNE: The thing that struck me most about the Albert Hall reading was the sense of... almost the unbelief of those who were most closely involved with it. It was like a fantasy that they'd had of how things should be and how things should go and suddenly they'd woken up and it was really happening. And that sense of unreality carried all the way through the entire proceedings. There were always those at the heart of it who saw it as the great opening up and believed that it would lead on to bigger poetry recitals and the coming together of people. I sensed immediately that, ironically, it was actually the last of the poetry recitals. It had to be savoured then, because it was not going to be around tomorrow.

IT/OZ

IT - the International Times - sprang directly from the energies released at the Albert Hall poetry reading. Modelled on the pioneering New York Village Voice, it simultaneously reported the alternative world and suggested the next steps. At its peak in 1968-1969 it sold 50,000 copies an issue: in its wake came a legion of allied publications, notably Rolling Stone, Time Out, Friends, INK - and the increasingly outrageous OZ, near-illegible beneath its wash of psychedelic colours as its editors became more involved with the hippie world and, as their lengthy obscenity trial at the Old Bailey in 1971 was to prove, less and less acceptable to the authorities.

RICHARD NEVILLE: I had founded OZ in Australia with Martin Sharp, and it proved an enormous success. It was a very useful way to vent your own ideas. The first moment I arrived in London, September '66, there was nothing being published. I was taken to meet Miles in India Books, and we had a little talk. I sensed there was a sub-stratum of genuine irritation with the society. So I thought about starting OZ in London. Martin and I talked about it. An article appeared in the Observer about Australian OZ, so Mary Kenny from the London Evening Standard phoned up, came over and I told her, "Yes, well, maybe I'll start OZ in London." I happened to sit next to Paul Johnson at dinner one night and he wrote a very generous paragraph in the New Statesman. And from there on it started to galvanize almost of its own accord. OZ was not psychedelic, not at all. It was more satirical, out of the Private Eye mould, really a lineal descendant of what we'd done in Australia. And there were old-fashioned articles demolishing God and strange stuff, and a very good piss-take of Private Eye. Peter Cook publicly burnt that issue of OZ in a pub in Soho. Martin and I were taken to meet Richard Ingrams. He was not hostile but he was paranoid. He loathed the idea of us starting another magazine, a magazine that was even going to mention the word "satire". He asked whether we were poebs, because our hair was long.

REVOLUTION

Central to the underground's many splendoured rhetoric was a basic belief that hippedom was not simply a hedonistic playground. The intention was first to create an "alternative society", designed to parallel the "straight" world and then, ultimately, to take over from it. Quite what it entailed was open to debate. The more political operated on reasonably familiar left-wing lines; the less ideological opted for a quasi-Tolkienian "Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life" ran the slogan, and for many hippies the revolution was just around the corner. It became a more tangible phenomenon in the outbursts at the LSE in 1967 and at the two massive anti-Vietnam War demonstrations in 1968. But a real revolution never arrived.

RICHARD NEVILLE: The aim of the alternative culture was to shake up the existing situation, to break down barriers not only between sexes and races and to know what else, and it was also to have a good time, it was to enlarge the element of fun that one had occasionally in one's own life and to make that more pervasive - not just for you but for everyone. I was quite keen to abolish this work/play distinction. There was something incredibly oppressed about the mass of grey people out there. I just thought that people on the whole looked unhappy. They seemed to be pinched and grey and silly and caught up with trivia and I felt that what was going on in London in the Sixties would bring colour into those grey cheeks and into those grey bedrooms. With a bit of sexuality and exciting music and flowers if not in their hair at



least in their living-rooms, somewhat the direction of society could be altered.

JIM HAYNES: First and foremost, it was going to be a world of mutual respect, mutual acceptance. No more prejudice: you could worship who you wanted to worship, how you wanted to worship, wear the clothes you wanted to wear, have the sexual attitudes you wanted, eat what you wanted to eat, drink, smoke... whatever you wanted to do. We thought it made complete sense. Completely logical. We thought that everybody in the world would immediately recognize this home truth and it would happen. But they didn't.

JOHN PEEL: I believed absolutely, without question initially. I really thought we were going to change the world. I believed almost anything. I'm very gullible. But then there was a huge excitement because you felt that you were in the vanguard of something, that things genuinely were going to change. I didn't think in terms of what the actual changes were, what the revolution would be. I assumed that it was going to happen... I thought that it would just spread by influence. Just by being super-nice to everybody...

MARK BOYLE: There was this very important hippie phrase: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." I hated that. And I used to scream at people: "Don't you realize, we're all part of the problem, and we're all part of the solution!" I got very angry at some of the rhetoric. I was angry with them for not defining what they meant by "peace" and "love". But of course they couldn't define what they meant - because that would have split the whole thing apart.

JO DURDEN-SMITH: Somebody in New York told me that he was going to the racetrack and he was going to bet all his money. This money would be of no use in the new era, and the new era was due to start next Monday. The degree of self-delusion involved in that was very, very great.

BLOW-UP

"Swinging London" was not, of course, an "underground" event. Its prime movers took their style from the old aristocratic Chelsea Set rather than from the beats, but the two skins of hip London life inevitably ran together. It was a world celebrated fictionally in Antonioni's film Blow-Up and pursued in the international mass market through the breathless paragraphs of Time magazine.

KIERAN FOGARTY: My friend George Galitzine rang me up at the end of the Oxford summer term of 1966 and said I'd want to be in this film called Blow-Up? That was glorious. We duly assembled. I had at this time a girlfriend called Didi Verschoyle. Didi was stunningly beautiful - so stunning that Carlo Ponti wrote in an extra scene just so that she could do it - all it consisted of was that she should just walk very slowly down these stairs and the camera could linger in close-up on this fabulous

Sixties vision. But it got cut by express command of her father, because she was still under 21 and his permission had not been given. I was flung into this bedroom in Cheyne Walk, hair parted, purple shirt with paisley motifs, black knitted Jaeger tie, square-ended, black jacket. Plonked on the front of this bed with about another nine people on it and Antonioni tossed a couple of kilo-bags of grass on the bed and said: "Right, get on with it." It took five days. I just went on and on. Nobody wanted to stop. Indeed they weren't to be stopped, no way. And it all ended up as about 30 seconds. It was a great party.

HIGH TIMES

LSD, lysergic acid diethylamide, a derivative of ergot (a fungus found in rotting wheat and known to the Middle Ages as St Anthony's Fire), was synthesized by Dr Albert Hoffman in Switzerland in 1943. Developed during the 1950s by both the chemical warfare experts of the US Army and a number of international psychiatrists, "acid" had developed by 1967's "summer of love" into the staple agent of hippie fantasy.

STASH DE ROLA: Psychedelic drugs were a key element in the Sixties. Acid was very powerful. It led a lot of people to re-examine themselves, people who otherwise might have been doomed to be the era's yuppies. Such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, this circle of rich pop stars. Success on an unparalleled scale rewarded them with all the material trappings, but in a way it was all treated a bit as a joke. And there was constantly an underlying tension, a worry and a quest: everyone sought a transcendental way to some paradise of some kind, to the other side. I there was this thirst of the soul. I do remember wonderful conversations with people like George

Harrison, indeed with Mick Jagger. One morning in Cheyne Walk he confessed how difficult it was to operate since he reckoned he's lost his ego through acid. It was very hard for him to go on at that moment. For stars this loss of ego was impossible.

PAUL MCCARTNEY: When I admitted I took acid I got into trouble for being honest. The option was there to say, "LS what? Never heard of it, sorry." Certainly no one had ever caught me at it. But the point was that we were in a sort of group, we were a generation, and really more than anything you don't want to let each other down. And I'm not ashamed of it. This is something I've done, something Aldous Huxley had done, plenty of good precedents for experiments in these areas among artists. When I did it, once or twice I did enjoy it and once or twice I didn't.

RIP-OFF

The 14-Hour Technicolor Dream, held in April 1967, attracted the largest alternative-society audience since the Albert Hall poetry reading. Held in the old Alexandra Palace to raise funds for IT, it was a large-scale version of nights at UFO, the fashionable hippie club on Tottenham Court Road, and featured two seminal underground bands, Pink Floyd and the Soft Machine, plus assorted spectating Beatles and a mass of psychedelic visions.

JIM HAYNES: We decided to have one big fund-raising event. We had a meeting at the Arts Lab: Hoppy, Miles and myself. I was in charge of publicity and trying to raise money to make the event take place. I think we ended up selling the film rights to some Italian producer. We saw it as just an event which would create publicity, which would be fun in itself, and that was an end in itself.

THE VOICES

Andrea Adams: Co-author of Time's "Swinging London" cover story; now lives and works in London.

Andrew Bailey: Editor of UK edition of Rolling Stone; now runs his own London advertising agency.

Mark Boyle: Leading exponent of light-shows at UFO and elsewhere. Now appears - with wife, son and daughter - as the Boyle Family.

Johnny Byrne: Writer who helped Jenny Fabian write Groupie, the infamous roman-a-bedroom-clef. Recent work for television includes adaptations of James Herriot's "vet" books.

Jo Durden-Smith: Film maker; directed Granada TV documentary of Rolling Stones concert in Hyde Park.

Kieran Fogarty: Spent a year exploring Swinging London while rusticated from Oxford in 1966; now works in publishing as assistant editor of Picador.

Jim Haynes: Posted to Edinburgh with US Army, Haynes ran Britain's first paperback book shop and the Traverse Theatre before moving to London to set up IT and the Arts Lab. Now teaches in Paris.

John Hopkins: Co-founder of IT, UFO, Notting Hill Free School and many more projects. His gaudy for possession of cannabis led directly to appearance of famous "legalize marijuana" advertisement - signed by leading Establishment figures - in The Times in 1967. Now works in community video.

Mike Horowitz: Launched New Departures poetry magazine in 1968. Continues to promote poetry in various media.

Christopher Logue: An established figure in the British avant-garde by the mid-Sixties, Logue remains a productive poet and a pillar of Bohemia.

Paul McCartney: Member of the Beatles pop group, c.1960-1970. Now makes solo records, administers a

significant song-publishing business, and looks after his Highland farm.

Jonathan Meades: Former RADA student, now restaurant critic of The Times. First novel imminent.

Miles: A leading progenitor of the British underground, Barry Miles dropped his given name in 1961 and went on to help found the India Gallery and IT. His biography of Allen Ginsberg is published soon.

Sue Miles: Involved in the Albert Hall poetry reading, IT and the Arts Lab. Now a professional cook, involved with many fashionable restaurants, such as L'Escargot and the Soho Brasserie.

Richard Neville: Arrived from Australia in 1966 to found OZ and write Play Power. Returned home after notorious obscenity trial in 1971, and now appears regularly on television.

Jeff Nuttall: CND activist, initiator of "happenings" at Better Books, author of Bomb Culture. Founded the People Show, with whom he still works.

Stash de Rola: Son of the painter Balfrus, Prince Stanislaw Klossowski de Rola worked for the art gallery owner Robert Fraser and was an intimate of the pop aristocracy. Now lives mostly in Switzerland.

Craig Sans: Set up England's first macrobiotic restaurant. Now proprietor of successful Cares health-food shop and Whole Earth range of products.

Ed Victor: As editorial director of Jonathan Cape, published Neville's Play Power as well as books by Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin and Eldridge Cleaver. Co-founder (with Neville) of INK, the underground's ill-fated attempt to set up an alternative to the Fleet Street newspapers. Now a powerful literary agent.

John Wilcock: Founder of Village Voice, now working in cable television.

and it would produce some cash for the underground. God knows where the money went.

JOHN HOPKINS: Almost everything that happened then was totally disorganized. For instance, the 14-hour Technicolor Dream: we got ripped off for 10 grand because none of us could keep control of the tickets. One hundred per cent of the ticket money got ripped off and it was only because Jim Haynes managed to get some money off a couple of film companies for shooting it that he paid the expenses. It was a total disaster as far as money goes. None of us understood how to handle it.

JOHN PEEL: Everyone was just walking around looking for Rolling Stones or Beatles or Hendrix. You heard all these stories that famous pop stars were going to turn up. I suspect I went on my own. I just remember wandering around in a kind of non-drug-induced, non-alcohol-induced daze. Just dazed by the event.

BROWN RICE

Along with the long hair, the beards, the satins, the bells and the beads, the essential component of the clichéd hippie was his or her bowl of brown rice. Craig Sans found that there were sufficient customers to set up the first macrobiotic restaurant.

CRAIG SANS: On February 14, 1967 I opened the Macrobiotic Restaurant in a place called the Centre House off Camden Hill Road. It became an instant success and people just came flooding in. It was the only alternative restaurant-type venue anywhere in London. It went on for a couple of months and one night we had a party and around 11 o'clock in the morning it got too much of a party and the next morning the writs started to arrive from our neighbours. So we got thrown out.

Brown rice and vegetables was 2/6, fei-fai was 1/3 each. Nothing ever came to over five bob. People wrote out their own chits for what they'd had, someone would watch the till and take their money. It was very trusting. But one night I did a check on the tickets and found out that we had moved 24 slices of apple crumble and only one had been paid for; so after that we went onto a slightly more structured basis.

WAKING UP

And in the end? "The dream is over," John Lennon sang in 1971. The optimism of '67 and the revolution of '68 were long gone by 1971, when the OZ trial signalled the underground's last great hurrah. A golden era, some survivors insist today: pitiful self-delusion, others claim. As transient in many ways as any random run of years, the era and the figures who peopled it retain a curious potency.

JONATHAN MEADES: I thought that the second half of the Sixties in England was a very miserable period. There was quite a lot of good graphics, there were some quite considerable poster designers, but it was a very mite of art. It produced no Evelyn Waugh or Scott Fitzgerald who could stand outside. What writing it did produce was this self-excusing, pamphleteering stuff like Play Power or Bomb Culture or cash-in books like George Melly's Revolt into Style. It is very odd that there is not a single piece of serious prose writing which gets the era.

CHRISTOPHER LOGUE: I take what I call the Sixties to run from the first night of Look Back in Anger to the day Lennon and McCartney parted company. I think that within that period very important things happened in English art life - and I'm using that in the broadest sense: style, fashion, dancing, music, etc. etc. - it seemed to me to be a very rich period indeed. Full of good things. And the periods that follow are dull and uninteresting in comparison. The slighting comments that are made about the Sixties seem to me to stem very largely from envy and from ignorance. To criticize the Sixties as being in some way immoral strikes me as crazy when compared with the modern world that is dirty and crowded and frightening and ugly.

ANDREA ADAM: There is a core of validity to the Sixties. "Philosophy" may be too high-falutin' a word, but there was an urge to be less consumer-orientated, to lead a more communal life, to care. But I see no legacy of it in England whatsoever. I never felt it had reached down to the grass roots in England and whatever pockets it had reached were, by '74-'75, pretty much dispersed. We all disappeared. Suddenly one day we weren't talking to each other on the telephone, suddenly everybody had gone their own way. Suddenly everyone was knee-deep in mortgages and scrambling for a half-decent job. Everyone woke up one day and realized that they were nearly 30, without a job and that jobs were getting very scarce and that they were broke and there was no money coming from

anywhere. Living from hand to mouth was no longer possible. And the spirit of the Sixties went underground in '74-'75 to emerge in the Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings of the late Eighties.

ANDREW BAILEY: I do think the underground changed things; but it's best to look at it in business terms. What it can be seen as is a period when entrepreneurship found its feet again in England. The era gave a lot of people the opportunity to be small businessmen, some of whom - like Richard Branson, Felix Dennis and Tony Elliott - have continued and made a great deal of money. It was a period when the rules of business broke down, when small could be profitable. Maybe not immediately in terms of the accountant's bottom line, but where - because anything went and because there was a new market that was big enough to support new ideas - you could actually be a small business.

RICHARD NEVILLE: Our view of the world was altered, the way we travelled around the world was altered, the capacity for meeting with other people and making friendships which went totally across national boundaries and across cultural boundaries, the shake-up of relationships between the races, between men and women... I think there was a cultural explosion of some sort which of course was popularized, it was perhaps commercialized, it was marketed, it can be ridiculed, but at the same time at its core it had a genuine spirit of hope for humankind. It was predicated on the idea of making the world a better place. So if you get a lot of people gathered around a fundamental idea like that, I think you can say that that is a valid cultural nexus. Of what significance it is probably still too early to judge. A lot of people had ideas and impulses within them that were triggered by a fleeting identification with an idea larger than themselves. What happened after that was that the idea shrank to people's own ambition, which was basically the reversion to materialism: the Porsche, the stock market and the credit cards. But there was a time, a golden time, when people's ideas were larger than themselves.

SUE MILES: In the end it was about product. It was about posters and records, and it became clear that the rock 'n' roll industry was making a fortune out of the whole thing. Richard Neville had the good attitude - he was just in it for a bit of fun. The idea that we were all taken seriously was so weird. All that paranoia: "I'm not talking in this room, there's somebody with a suit on." "Never trust anyone over 30" - I remember thinking, we'll live to regret that label.

ED VICTOR: It was a fascinating moment. It's hard to believe that 20 years ago life was the way it was. Very different. How permissive it was... remarkable. It's also remarkable how many people never made it out of the Sixties. There are a lot of casualties in every era - people come out in their early twenties, full of promise, and then nothing - but I feel that the Sixties encouraged a kind of precociousness and a confidence and a brashness and a "We can do anything and being young is the thing to be, we can run things" - and a lot of these people got washed up on the shore. Never went back for another wave. A lot of people were arrested in their development then. On the other hand, it was such an attractive period. A lot of people never felt more alive than they did then, issues seemed to be drawn, it was a very exciting time. We went as far as we could go.

PAUL MCCARTNEY: I feel that very slowly, some of the stuff, some of the policies we tried to work on then, did change the world, but, like all changes, very, very slowly, painfully slowly. So that pollution, stuff like Greengate, slowly emerged. It wasn't us, but the kind of philosophies we supported - TM's success in America was us, because the Beatles gave Maharishi his great publicity, and what you'd call the Shirley MacLaine factor is the Eighties version of what we started - a lot of that alternative thinking has come in. Vegetarianism for instance. I've been a vegetarian for 18 years - it's now widely fashionable. We didn't organize ourselves and say, "Let's change the world," but we happened to be sitting around and it happened to throw up theories that, had they got into place, would have changed the world, and should they get in place will change the world, and in fact have changed the world to some degree. There was some form of revolution.

CHRISTOPHER LOGUE: Was it a counter-culture? I suppose it was. It was rather pretentious and silly in some ways. I found it rather... kids in the playground - "You're not part of our gang," that sort of thing. A bit childish. They certainly weren't going to change the world, no, no, no. Never had a chance. I think they thought that the world was going to follow them. That they wouldn't have to do anything. Among all these people I never thought that any of them were that bright. That was one of the things they had in common: they were intellectually flat and un-adventurous. Intellectual endeavour had no place in their scheme of things. None. There was no intellectual input. There was no "alternative society". It was playtime.

● Extracted from Days in the Life by Jonathan Green, published next Monday by Heinemann (£14.95).

COUNTRYSIDE

Farmers must still keep a trained eye on the weather but then, as Brian James discovered, computerized machines take over

Harvest home in the space age

One farmer explains why the harvest of 1988 will, for him, remain memorable: "I think I knew that the old days really were gone for ever when I called over a hedge to ask a farmworker when he'd be clear to cut one of my fields. He stumped over to his machine — and came back with his Filofax."

This week has been the peak of the harvest, and it highlights the passing of the romantic vision of ruddy-faced peasants happily hand-stacking sheaves until dusk before walking miles home singing soft, bucolic songs to urge on the horses, though it is but a single generation since that was the commonplace. But few city people know the reality represented by the men who drive the machines — all knives, claws and rakes like something by Heath-Robinson for Hammer Films — which have taken their place.

There are other tales to illustrate how great the changes have been for those who live off the land. Another farmer says: "Well, my wheat's all in. What I used to do next was go around the grain merchants getting a price. When I was happy we'd shake hands. I was finished. Now I go for the *Financial Times*, sit at the kitchen table and try to decide — go for the spot price or gamble on futures."

And, from the farmer holding a pretty bottle in a smart packet: "I remember when it was all cereals or beet. Now, acre for acre, my most valuable crop is this — Evening Primrose. I get £2,000 a tonne. The oil sells for a fortune to Yuppies — says on the box it will keep them living forever, without a wrinkle."

And from the combine operator who had just cleared 40 acres in a day: "How do I pass the time? I talk about the cricket team, or the foxes I see. I've got the CB radio. Can call up other lads half the county away."

The new generation of combine has revolutionized the lives of the harvesters. Even the youngest can remember

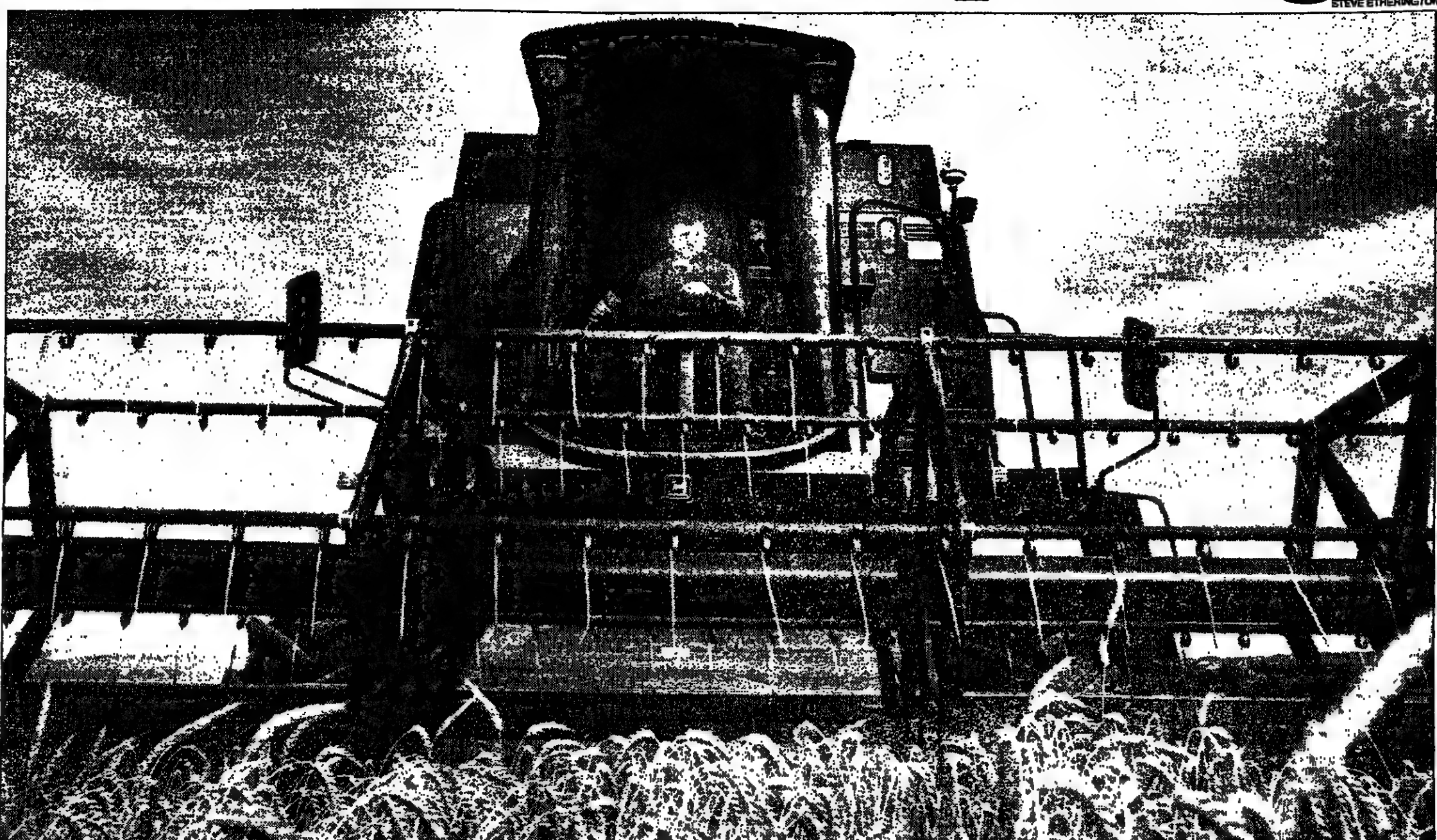
'Computers run the thing — but you still need to look at the skies and the wind to see if it's right to get started'

sitting unprotected on his machine, just behind the "tails", bathed in dust and drenched in noise. On smaller, poorer farms some still do. But for most, harvesting is now done from an insulated cabin, supported on rubberised blocks to reduce vibration, kept cool in the day and warm in the evening by air-conditioning; they are entertained by cassette players and keep abreast of the task through radio contact with the farm.

Riding these cabs, looking down from 10ft through tinted glass and 360-degree wind-screen wipers, can be like staring into an aquarium: the land can look like water, the corn like waves, and the field's departing inhabitants — rabbits and birds — seem totally displaced from their element.

Some machines have joystick controls like fighter-planes, with six buttons at the fingertips to change the height and timing of the cut, the speed of the threshing and separating and the discharge of the crop into trailers. Others have computer read-outs to monitor every moving part, with a touch-pad control.

Some seem a touch too user-friendly. I heard of the still-glowing farmer who stood watching an £85,000 machine grind itself to destruction when an interior blockage



Mechanized monsters: the combine harvester illustrates how far farming has come. Today the driver sits in an air-conditioned, cushioned cab listening to his favourite music while a computer monitors the moving parts

went unnoticed. What about the warning klaxons? "To tell the truth, guv'nor, I had my Walkman on, listening to Michael Jackson."

The farmer checking the F7 to sell his grain is Tim Wright, who with just four men works 800 acres in Northamptonshire. He is old enough to remember standing on the back of a Sixties combine, bagging the corn by hand, tying the straw with twine. "Now our big combine tips six tonnes of wheat into the trailer every 15 minutes. Computers run the thing — but you still need to look at the skies and the wind to see whether it is right to get started."

Put five 1980s farmers in a room to discuss the problems facing agriculture and they will come up with 10 causes and 20 solutions: but during the harvest when they are united in the great, unchanging tussle with the weather, there is little time for talk and only just time to mutter a prayer for the machines.

Billy Richmond is typical of the young, articulate men who now farm Britain. He manages two farms in Suffolk. "Until about 1980 farmers would make money no matter what they did. But no more. The price we got for grain then is the price we get now, except wages have nearly tripled and interest rates have shot up."

"If we did not have the machines we could not survive. Of course, it is lovely to look back on farms where chickens ran about, you had ducks on the pond and a few cows out the back. No one will ever have such a farm again — you couldn't afford the wages to collect the eggs or milk the cows."

Farmers, too, live in the age of efficiency, he says. "People talk of the 'farming way of life'. In fact, I think many stockbrokers put in longer hours on the job. There are so many restrictions. I used to go up to a field of stubble and clear it with a couple of Swan Vestas — but, quite rightly, firing the fields is frowned on now. You can't legally ask a man to lift more than 1cwt. I have a photo of my grand-

mother humping 250lbs up a ladder on her back.

"In 1980 they had seven men plus the farmer here on these 430 acres. Couldn't go on. Specialization and mechanization had to be the answer. Not only is a man standing still a cost you dare not bear, so is a man ploughing four furrows who could be ploughing eight."

Now it is a big business, with a turnover of £500,000. "And we do it with two men plus me here half my time. Once a man who had land and three sons would have work for them all. No more. He'll keep one of them to work the

'Harvesting was when you swallowed dust. Beans were worst — you'd be spitting black for a week'

land and set up the other two with a combine to be contract harvesters.

"Once you pay £100,000 for a combine you want it working. We earn a bit extra by competing with our estimates to bring in the harvest for other farmers, even though we only have two men to do the lot."

One of those two is Tony Branton, third in a family line of men who have been farmers at Hoo Farm. He talks with awe of the machines he saw in America that advance eight abreast and cut a two-square-mile swathe, and with pride of the 70 acres he can cut himself in a 12-hour day in Suffolk.

But you listen with nostalgic interest to his father, Peter Branton, nearly 70, who retired after 51 years at Hoo and who remembers when "harvesting time was the whole point of your life". Peter Branton began, officially, when he was 14, though he had been helping out since the age

of 11 — "driving the tractor standing up with my uncle's overcoat on, case they saw me from the main road".

The new-fangled tractors were just coming in. But he remembers when 32 men worked the farm — "including the chap who looked after the pigs, 2,000 of them. Now there is not a single animal on the farm". Three horses pulled the binder and the women and children came with "the fourzees" (tea and cake carried to the fields at 4pm) and often stayed to help with the stacking and carting as men and beasts tired.

There would be maybe 20 men in a field, and perhaps a couple of boys leading the wagon-horses. There was no overtime, but for a month's dawn-to-dusk work from "first-cutting" to "see-it-in" he would get a £5 note. "Big money when my wage was 10 bob a week for 52 hours."

There was a strong community spirit at the harvest. "You'd talk with your mates, mostly about girls. More talk than action then days. The girls were all in service at the halls hereabouts — only got off two afternoons a week. And men'd help out other farmers if they were sick. Or the weather turned nasty. I remember seeing 12 men go into a field laid by a storm and with their scythes salvage 12 acres of oats in a day." These days the villagers can hardly find a man capable of handling a scythe when the churchyard needs reaping.

But romantic yearning for bygone harvests is confined to his listeners. "Them first tractors didn't even have mudguards. A luxury seat was a handful of straw. By the end of the first row of ploughing you had a lapful of mud. Harvesting was when you swallowed dust. Or put your overcoat over your head when you hit a wasp-nest — I remember 25 nests once in a 12-acre field. Beans were worst — you'd be spitting black for a week."

Peter Branton also drove one of the newer, even more fanged machines, the first combines seen in Suffolk imported from America to

Britain for the wartime drive for more food. "They came from all over the county to watch me cut a field. We all knew we were seeing the future." But it took another 40 years of sitting out in the open — eventually with protective face masks or helmets — for machinery manufacturers to

begin to treat the men as well as the grain.

Now they are the mechanized elite, as insulated as astronauts for their working day. And when it ends, often long after dark, they drive in late-model cars to villages where perhaps 80 per cent of their neighbours could not tell

an ear of wheat from a stem of Evening Primrose.

Yet they are not quite dislocated from their past. Rural vicars know that the best-attended services, rivalled only by Christmas, will be those on October 2, the harvest thanksgiving, and tickets for most harvest sup-

pers have long since been booked.

Do they get bored? "Not for a minute," says Tony Branton. "Tired, yes, but how can you get bored in the few days that show you whether you have done a good year's work? It's a bit like an exam, and this is the result."

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Romantic vision: the days of scythes and the back-breaking gathering of ripe crops by hand are long gone down on the farm

EATING OUT

No kitsch in the kitchen

Brann's possesses two important assets. The first is its chef, Nicholas Rutheven-Stuart: a year ago I wrote that his cooking was worth the 80-minute trip from London to Middle Wallop.

This can now be amended to the 70-minute trip from London to Winchester. Mr R-S has picked up his stove and lugged it across the Test and the downs to a site near the Itchen, overlooking Winchester Cathedral. This is Brann's second important asset — the site.

The only trouble with the site is that it remains unexploited at night because the cathedral is, like those of, say, Salisbury and Lincoln, not floodlit. Customers near the bow window of the restaurant can just about make out the sullen bulk of the building and the bogus medievalism of the museum's facade.

The interior of the first floor restaurant is no oil painting or, rather, it has too many oil paintings — someone has had the not very good idea of lining the walls with Munnings prints in identical frames and lighting, each one with a self-important lamp attached to the frame; the prints that aren't by Munnings are of the same genre — rural kitsch, old codger kitsch, doggy kitsch.

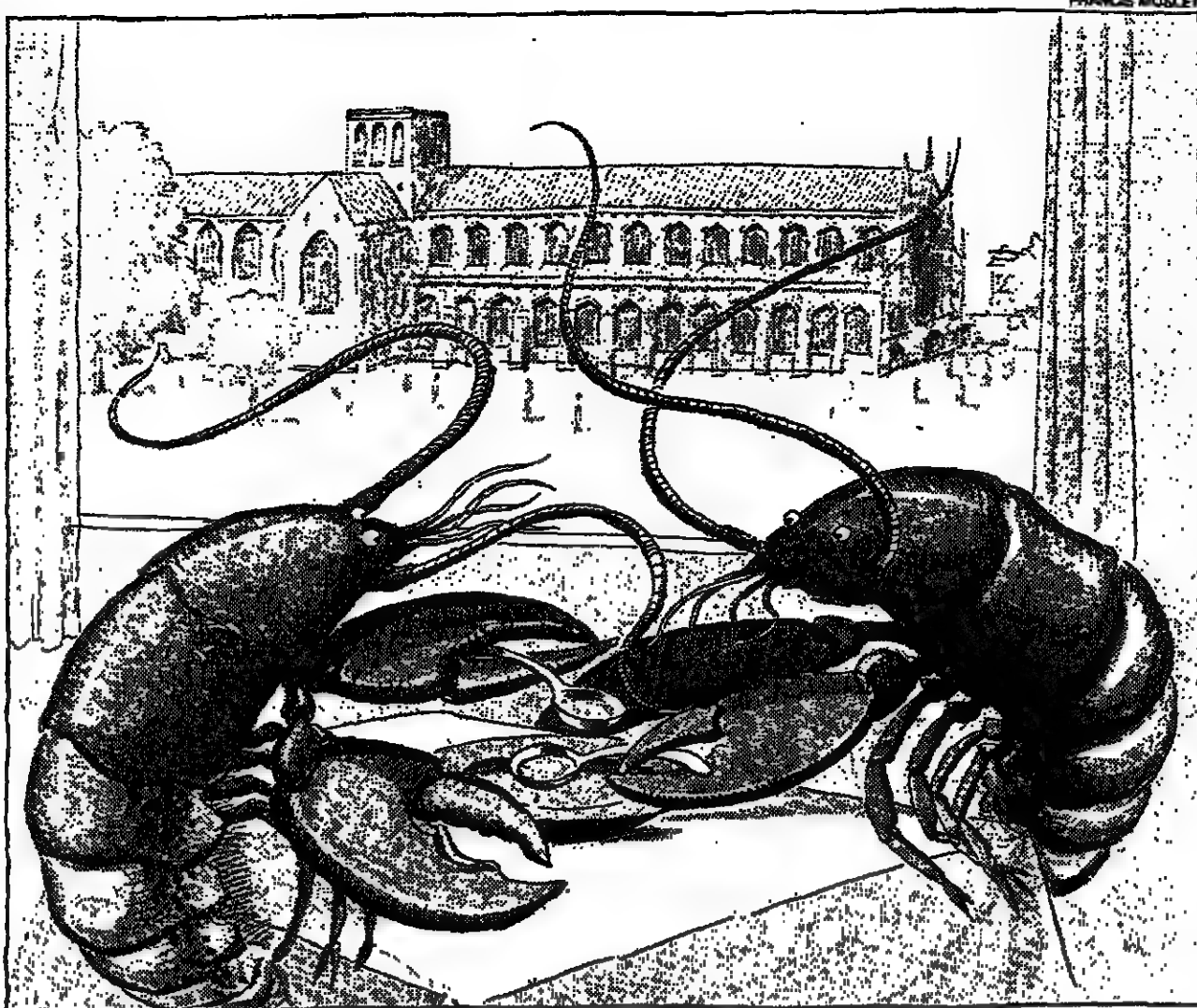
The rest of the room is all reproduction furniture and dragged walls and startling carpet. It is not going to get any prizes for its looks but neither is it going to get a wooden spoon.

There are a few things still to be got right — this is a very new restaurant: the bread is poor, the menu descriptions are thankfully succinct, but they are also inaccurate, for example a celeriac purée turned up in lieu of the advertised courgette mousse as an accompaniment to a fine dish of duck with soy and honey and ginger; certain dishes are served in Brobdingnagian portions, others in Gulliver-size dollops.

But these small failings are undeserving of black marks, and the cooking impresses again and again.

You are given a palate-starter of mushrooms in filo

Jonathan Meades muses on menus from Hampshire and Fulham



pastry, followed by, say, lobster bisque or "fish" quenelles. The lobster soup is really quite something — very punchily flavoured; the quenelles are made, I suspect, according to the old and correct method of incorporating fish flesh into a panada, rather than the current and frequently encountered method of preparing a mousse and giving it a fancy name. Anyway, these quenelles were well textured, lightish, not too eggy, properly dumpling-like and served in massive quantities with a fine shellfish sauce.

All the sauces here are commendable — beef fillet comes with a shallot and red wine reduction, and "anatomy lesson" guinea fowl with a sauce flavoured with citrus fruit. Vegetables are not yet up to the standard of those at Fifield Manor, but the sweets are: sorbets of apple

and mango (the latter having the edge); passionfruit mousse; St Emilion au chocolat; toffee pudding; floating islands, and so forth. A sampler plate of the lot is pleasantly incapacitating.

With a bottle of something

from the lower reaches of an over-French list, such as the Provencal Chateau Vignolère '81 or a Petit Chablis, two will pay between £55 and £60.

Provincial cities are the graveyards of ambitious restaurants, and the fact that Brann's was half-full on a Monday night is presumably indicative of Winchester's mutation into being an affluent outer-suburb of London; the customers certainly suggested this.

They would not have seemed out of place at Hiders in Fulham, which is evidently the place for that segment of the middle-aged, middle-

browed, middle-class that considers Jilly Cooper a hoot.

Loud voices and loud striped shirts may not be *de rigueur*, but they are certainly preferred — here is a subaltern of perhaps 23 years discussing with his mother the possibility of jacking in the martial life to become a Tory candidate; here is a "vivacious" party in her late-thirties, braying: "More shampoo, more shampoo". And here is the greeter, who is also "vivacious", chappiss, prone to lapse into cod French, but for all that a good sort and an efficient one, too — this restaurant runs like clockwork.

It also serves far better cooking than one might expect. They do a chicken and goat cheese mousse which may or may not be a lift of the near identical dish at Kensington Place; it is, anyway, pretty sound, with a top of chopped olive and a dressing of olive oil and anchovy.

Pork fillet billed as "collop" — the menu's vocabulary is endlessly fanciful — is given a sauce that is supposed to be of tomato and basil and tastes all right, even though its ingredients are indiscernible. Two more odd, but very pleasant, sauces accompany a dish of lamb kidney and sweetbreads.

With the exception of an abundantly creamy potato grain, the vegetables are not interesting. But the sweets and the cheeses are: a wonderful crème brûlée with raspberries buried in it, and a selection of British and French farmhouse samples, which puts to shame many grander restaurants.

I guess that Hiders might be considered a grand restaurant in miniature; as I say, it runs very smoothly, possesses a notably attentive and amiable staff, and looks good. It would look better were it not so dimly lit.

The style is one of cleverly extemporized opulence: curtained mirrors, Victorian prints and paintings, a 1920s boardroom portrait, comfortable chairs, a banquettes scattered with Paisley cushions. With a bottle of Domaine Julien Dousot's '84 Beaune Bressandes, the bill was £62.

DIRECTORY

This is a changing selection of restaurants visited in recent months — managements and standards may have changed. Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Dishes described are included to give an indication of the cooking but may well have changed. Prices quoted are for a three-course meal with drinks for two, and are determined according to the "When in Rome" principle: in the case of French places, aperitifs and a bottle of modest wine; tea in the case of oriental ones; beer or less in the case of Indian ones and so on. JM.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Bibendum
Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-581 5817)
★★★★★
Elegant and fashionable restaurant which raises bistro and brasserie dishes of the day-before-yesterday to heights they never scaled then. Some of Simon Hopkinson's sauces are on the side of over-emphasis but the majority of the classic dishes are spot on: tête de veau, omelette en meunière, fine steak, outstanding beef daube and tartar fine aux pommes. Overpriced but undeniably impressive wines. £100

Port's
11 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (01-581 3837)
★★★★★
Chic Portuguese basement which serves some really good dishes, notably salt cod grilled with garlic and chick and served with fine olive oil, and a cabbage soup flavoured with chorizo. Interesting native cheeses and wines. £55

Turner's
87 Walton Street, London SW3 (01-584 6711)
★★★★★
Flashy customers, accomplished French cooking, stingy portions, and a chef-patron who spends most of his time in his immaculate whites greeting his customers. Rabbit terrine, duck pâté, well-sauced braised meat, successfully elaborate sweets, fine cheeses. Unexciting wines. £68

Montpelliano
13 Montpelier Street, London SW7 (01-589 0032)
★★★★★
Adapted prints, tiles like nougat, a manager dressed to present Blue Peter — this Italian joint aims to be fun. And it just about manages it. The kitchen tries hard though much of what it turns out is pretty crude: sweetbreads with prosciutto like calf bacon, rather hefty sweeties. Breadcrumbed brains with lemon butter are good, as is the (warm) raw beef with rosemary and olive oil. Cheap decent wines. £45.

St Quentin
243 Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-589 8005)
★★★★★
High-class bistro stuffed full of elegant mirrors and elegant people. It serves a sweet of oranges and

bitter chocolate that's among the best in London and another that's also pretty good — prunes with amaretto and honey ice cream. Before this, red mullet with olive oil and coriander, warm oysters with sabayon sauce. £66

TAPAS

Don Pepe
99 Frampton Street, London NW8 (01-262 3834)
★★★★

Animated Galician bar and restaurant that is an unofficial club for local Spaniards. The bar is rather better than the restaurant. Asturian bean stew called fabada, black puddings, mountain ham, tortilla and stewed pork are all commendable. Tapas £16, meal £35.

Bar Escoba
102 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-373 2403)
★

Erstwhile tapas served in a former pub done over by the trendiest designers of 1985. The lack of accuracy in the cooking is rather astonishing. Good for teenagers with wrecked taste buds. £40

Meson Don Felipe
53 The Cut, London SE1 (01-588 3237)
★★★★

Pleasant tapas bar near Waterloo frequented by Marbella habitués. Meat dishes are better than fish ones. Decent Rioja and Manchego cheeses. £25.

OUT OF TOWN

Le Manoir
Rose and Crown Hotel, Market Place, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (0945 583187)
★★★★★

A tiny piece of precious Covent Garden transported to the Fens — black Macintosh chairs, fashionable up-lighting, pastel prints in a hotel which you'd expect to do scampi in the basket. The food is subtly flavoured and prettily presented: sole with crab sauce; barbed lamb with noodles and a redcurrant flavoured meat glaze; beef with shallots and red wine sauce. Rich, potent sweets, useful wine list that includes some worthwhile halves. £50

Oakes
169 Slad Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire (04536 78866)
★★★★★

The dining room is like a drab bar room but the cooking is rather special: mallet on potato galette, veal with a first rate marsala sauce, potent leek soup. The set lunch is a bargain. At dinner two will pay £65.

The Roadhouse Restaurant
18 High Street Road near Northampton (0604 863372)
★★★★★

The dining room is English tea-house style. The cooking is gutsy, strong on game — fine woodcock, pheasant pâté en croûte with a Cumberland sauce. Attentive service, decent cheap wines, serious cheeses. A useful place in a gastronomically barren part of England. £50.

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Potent taste of the South

The garlic tonight's chicken Kiev probably came from a garden closer to home than the sun-drenched Mediterranean.

The new restaurant... since 10 and 11... Spencer, the... the changes are... not from Spain, but from... Wight.

Coin... game... since 10 and 11... ing the... about 125... produce the... primarily from... consumer's... has made it... supermarket... economists to... high quality... "respe... made... even if the... cannot cook.

A ton of... garlic goes... chicken Kiev... Another... seasoned... replacing... and garlic... making the... Without high... grower, the... who supply the... would have... difficult time... a tender crop... easily in... cell structure... damaged... mars the... research and... for the... to the... cookery, and... the second crop to

ARTS INTERVIEW

Still rolling with the punches

Having lunched on fish and chips, he arrives very nearly on time and crosses the plush hotel room in several long, loping strides, his white, rose-patterned shirt flowing open around him. He heads for the bottle of Jack Daniels with a purposeful air, pours a glass, tops it up with ginger ale and lights a Marlboro. Tucked out of sight in the pocket of his cord trousers is a wicked-looking, retractable, bone-handled knife — "I feel naked without it" — and resting on his skinny shoulders is a weight of mythology which few would be able to carry with such nonchalance.

At 44, Keith Richards has proved himself to be indisputably tougher than the rest, and still remains the personification of rock's delinquent tendency. As perhaps the key figure in the Rolling Stones he has contributed a pivotal musical legacy and emerged battered-looking but unbowed from 26 years of barely imaginable mayhem.

Only last month, "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" was voted the best record of the past 25 years in a *Rolling Stone* magazine critics' poll. The accompanying commentary suggested that the opening guitar riff was "the rock'n'roll equivalent to Beethoven's Fifth".

"I'm flattered," Richards says, "but I wonder what Beethoven would have to say about it."

Now, despite initial misgivings, he is about to release his first solo album. "I'd always felt that the idea of making a solo album would mean that I'd failed to keep the Stones together, which was something I always figured I could do."

However, when Mick Jagger declined to tour to promote the Rolling Stones' 1986 album, *Dirty Work*, and then smartly set about recording and promoting his second solo album instead, Richards was forced to take a rain check on his long-standing policy. In partnership with the session drummer Steve Jordan, whom he met in Paris during the making of *Dirty Work*, Richards convened a stellar mob of predominantly American musicians, including Funkadelic bassist Bootsy Collins, Allman Brothers keyboard player Chuck Leavell and James Brown's sax player Maceo Parker. The resulting recording is a grainy, refreshingly soulful collection of 11 new songs entitled *Talk Is Cheap*.

"I'm quite happy with it, especially for a first bash," pro-

Keith Richards, the driving force of the Rolling Stones, is about to launch a solo assault on the record-buying public. He tells David Sinclair that he is championing 'mature rock'n'roll'

nounces Richards, who is now planning to record solo again. "As I said to the Stones, 'If you let me out of the cage you'll have a job getting me back in.'" Indeed, he has a four-piece band from the sessions including Jordan on drums, which he plans to take on a tour of the American theatre circuit before Christmas.

The relationship between Jagger and Richards, never smooth at the best of times, hit rock bottom in the aftermath of *Dirty Work* and the frank airing of grievances in interviews, which led some observers to conclude that at long last it really was all over for the Stones. Not so, according to Richards, who states categorically that plans are in hand for an album and a tour next year.

"I've seen Mick quite a lot recently for an evening here and there. Sometimes it's been quite encouraging and other times I fly off the handle. But it has to come out. To me, it's like growing pains more than anything else. I think that the Stones can definitely get back together and still do some interesting stuff, because I think they're in a unique position. After all, the audience has grown up along with the music and we've grown up with it, and I don't see any reason why you can't have mature rock'n'roll. Even if you can't, well, let's find out. The Stones shouldn't toss that opportunity away."

By most accounts, Richards has been lucky to arrive at a position where he can talk about investigating the possibilities of "mature rock'n'roll". His lined face bears testament to the kind of lifestyle which has consigned many of his peers to an early grave.

"You never know what the job entails until you're too far in to get out. You pay a tax on success: physically, mentally, and in the

way your personality changes. Also, the industrial accident rate in rock'n'roll is pretty high. It's not a particularly easy job and there are high risks just on the level of having to take those dodgy charter planes and driving so many miles, year in year out. Then there are the inner problems. A lot of musicians are fragile characters, and yet you are constantly exposed. So you look for something to dull it or to beef you up. And dope is the first obvious thing that's going to fool you into thinking you're dealing with it."

Although Richards has cleaned up his act since his arrest in Toronto in 1977, he is not the sort of person to be found checking for E numbers on goods in the supermarket. "You can't knock it, people wanting to keep fit, but I think it's become a bit of a mania. I watch these guys jogging in New York, hammering their joints and knees and ankles. You shouldn't go stomping about on concrete like that. It's not good for you," Anita Pallenberg, who

bore Richards' first two children, Marlon (19) and Angela (16), and was his partner in crime during the days of his heaviest excesses, now works for Narcotics Anonymous.

"I'm not saying that some people don't need it, but to me the idea of joining a group and talking about something that you've stopped doing suggests that you're still hooked on it. You could use that time more productively in other ways."

Richards is now married to Patti Hansen, a former model, who has blessed him with another two children. "I've always been a bit of a family man, myself," he says, beaming. "I take the dog for a walk. I enjoy it immensely, although now and again things clash. I might be out with the kids and some guy comes up going:

"Yeah man, Sympathy for the Devil", and I say: 'I'm just taking the kids to church, Goddamit.'"

"I love having kids about. They give you back that warmth and innocence which is so necessary, because if you forget it entirely or have it knocked out of you as you grow up, you can become very cynical and hard."

Among other recent projects, Richards organized an all-star backing band to accompany Chuck Berry in a concert which provided footage for the feature film *Hail! Hail! Rock'n'Roll*. In it some remarkable fly-on-the-wall sequences showed Berry in rehearsals shouting the odds at Richards for not playing his (Berry's) riffs correctly.

"Chuck thought that all those rehearsals were for the band, he didn't realize that they were for him. He wouldn't have thought in a million years that it was him who needed to rehearse, and it's not the sort of thing you can tell him. I knew it was going to be a difficult job. I had to watch the finished film with him at the New York Film Festival at the Lincoln Centre in New York. We were sitting together in this little balcony. When it got to the bit in the film where I'm suggesting that maybe Chuck didn't really write the songs — that the melodies were knocked together by Johnnie Johnson, his piano player — I started to wish that I'd worn a parachute."

Richards divides his time between New York, where he has an apartment, and Jamaica, where he has lived on and off for 18 years. He was relieved to hear that his house had been spared the worst ravages of Hurricane Gilbert.

"It's a very sturdy place. We lost a few trees in the garden, that's all. But I've got about a hundred Rastas, friends of mine, encircling the joint just for now, because there's a lot of looting going on. Jamaica is a very volatile place, but to me it's a lot of fun. The Caribbean culture is so inspiring. I just love their originality and their humour and their warmth."

Does anything in life intimidate him? "I haven't found anything for a long time. I can't say there is any more. Not since I was woken up by 15 Canadian Mounties in order to be arrested. That was when I said 'Enough's enough. If I get out of this I'm staying out.'"

● *Talk Is Cheap* by Keith Richards is released on October 3.



The personification of rock's delinquent tendency: Keith Richards, drawing on 26 years' work

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MACMILLAN

The Scandal of the Prime Minister's Wife.

Exclusive extracts from the official biography.

Behind the urbane mask of the senior statesman who was nicknamed 'Supermac' lay a remarkable private tragedy.

In 1929 his wife Dorothy fell in love with Robert Boothby, one of Macmillan's closest friends, and he with her. Their passionate affair continued throughout most of Macmillan's life.

Tomorrow The Sunday Times publishes extracts from Alistair Horne's penetrating new biography of Macmillan, and reveals for the first time, with Macmillan's full co-operation, the private heartbreak of the public figure.

TOMORROW



Culture
as made
in Korea

Our current obsession with Korea is a new twist on the old story of the East as a land of mystery and exoticism. This time it's the South Korean culture that is the focus of our attention. Perhaps this is because the South Korean government has been so successful in promoting its culture abroad. The result is a new wave of Korean culture in the West, from K-pop to Korean dramas. This is a good thing, as it allows us to learn more about a different culture and its people. However, it is also a reminder that we should not be too quick to judge a culture by its most visible aspects. There is much more to Korean culture than just the music and the dramas. We need to take the time to understand the history and the values that underpin this culture. Only then can we truly appreciate it.

TELEVISION

political situation and the fact that this might have had a bearing on the border sequence. The fact that the war was a real war, and not a staged one, was a major factor in the decision to set the scene in a real war zone. The result is a powerful and moving performance that is a testament to the power of television as a medium for storytelling.

The problem of the cultural tradition of the West is a complex one. It is a tradition that has been built up over centuries, and it is one that is deeply ingrained in the minds of the people of the West. However, it is also a tradition that is constantly being challenged by new cultures and new ideas. This is a good thing, as it allows us to grow and to learn from other cultures. But it is also a challenge, as it requires us to take the time to understand and to appreciate the values and the traditions of other cultures.

The agreement between the two sides is a significant one. It is a step towards peace and stability in the region. However, it is also a reminder that we should not be too quick to judge a situation by its most visible aspects. There is much more to the situation than just the agreement. We need to take the time to understand the history and the values that underpin this situation. Only then can we truly appreciate it.

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RECORDS

Songs for the lost souls of the night

The surreal images and wry observations which typify Tom Waits's recent material have fresh life breathed into them on *Big Time*, an artful live album which is also the soundtrack to an eponymous movie, premiered at the Edinburgh Film Festival last month.

Like a latter day Pied Piper of Hamelin, Waits exerts a perennial fascination. As he sings in his impossibly guttural, deadbeat voice, a host of odd characters from the downside of the American dream are conjured to life, shuffling and jiggling along in his wake. Here come the drunks and the bums, the lost souls of the night and the cracked fundamentalist preacher of "Down in the Hole" who declaims reassuringly that "Jesus is always going for the big picture, but he's always there to help us out of the little jams too".

Apart from a new studio track, the achingly melancholic "Falling Down", and a mastery version of "Strange Weather" (written for Marianne Faithfull), the performances are of songs culled from his last three albums — *Swordfishtrombone*, *Rain Dogs* and *Frank's Wild Years*. Waits is not afraid to let his arrangements breathe, and the vibrant renditions of "16 Shells", "Big Black Mariah", "Telephone Call from Istanbul" and "Gun St Girl" sound at once grippingly urgent and perilously loose.

With his junkyard-equipped psycho-blues band in tow, Waits has been mining this seam for as long as most people care to remember, and if by now it all sounds a touch familiar he retains a remarkable talent for extracting romantic narrative from the harsh realities of life on the margins. In contrast, the characters

ROCK
Tom Waits *Big Time* (Island ITW4)
Sandy Newman *Land of Dreams* (Warner Bros WX212)

which people Randy Newman's songs are drawn from somewhere much nearer to the mainstream of American society. *Land of Dreams* acquaints us with the thoughts and philosophies of a redneck, self-made man in "Roll with the Punches", an acquisitive, upwardly-mobile rap star in the waspish hip-hop pastiche "Masterman & Baby", and a died-in-the-wool patriot in "Follow the Flag". Unusually too, a large chunk of the album is autobiographical, recalling his days as a child growing up in New Orleans ("Dixie Flyer", "New Orleans").

Despite accumulating a tremendous fund of critical acclaim, Newman has so far avoided popular detection in Britain, apart from a blip registered around the time of his big American hit, the irritating and misunderstood satire "Short People".

One reason may be that for all the force of his observational style, his singing has a wet, adolescent quality that can grate on the nerves, particularly on songs like "Falling in Love", where he sounds like an anemic Huey Lewis, or the twee "Something Special".

He is at his best when he allows some of the idiosyncrasies of his lyrical style to spill over into his music, notably on the song "Four Eyes" — a vivid description of the childhood horrors of his first day at school — which is lent an engrossing, nightmarish quality by a string section. *Big Country* has long had the

Big Country Peace in Our Time (Mercury MERH 130)
Level 42 *Starting at the Sun* (Polydor POLH 50)
Talk Talk *Spirit of Eden* (Parlophone PCSO 105)

firepower to tackle American MTV rock head on, but has in the past resisted the temptation to go the whole hog, one assumes on grounds of taste. However, with *Peace in Our Time* the band has finally slipped the leash, hiring the producer Peter Wolf (of Heart and Starship fame) and leading off with a single, "King of Emotion", that is an undisputed heavy rock anthem in the classic power chord and cowbell vein.

Nor has *Big Country* evaded the primary law of rock band dynamics which states that sooner or later groups with two lead guitarists will start to sound like Wishbone Ash, and "Thousand Yard Stare" is built round an uncomfortably familiar, twiddly, dual guitar part. "From Here to Eternity" features the guitars-as-bagpipes routine, and the lyrics throughout are suffused by the usual touches of well-meaning, cod-Celtic mysticism.

It is an album which plainly reveals the group in its true colours while offering nothing beyond the statements of its last three releases.

Level 42's revamped line-up sees the brothers Phil and Boon Gould replaced by the drummer Gary Husband (formerly with Allan Holdsworth) and the guitarist Alan Murphy (formerly with Go West). If anything, on *Starting at the Sun*, these personnel changes have beefed up the group's distinctive sound, most notably on the romping single "Heaven in my Hands". But while Level 42 tends to

shine out among the dross of *Top of the Pops*, listening to a whole album of its brilliantly-performed blend of commercial pop-funk is a bit like eating a sorbet of Milky Bars. There is a cloying cumulative effect to numbers like "Two Hearts Collide", a routine love song with an unusually pretty chorus, or "Over There", with its slap-happy bass line and obvious lyric about a soldier of fortune who discovers that "the glory of battle is the myth".

Talk Talk, the group which has maintained its near-invisible profile despite flirting with the lower reaches of the charts since 1982, returns to the fray with *Spirit of Eden*.

It is an engrossing, modern "head" album, the kind of recording that Pink Floyd never became quite heavy enough to make, and features a varied cast of deans including jazz alumni such as Danny Thompson (bass) and Henry Lowther (trumpet) together with Nigel Kennedy (violin) and the choir of Chelmsford Cathedral.

The six tracks are strung together in a way which suggests a "concept" may be involved, although the pretensions and mostly inaudible lyrics make it hard to judge whether this is the case.

It begins with the tense, minimalist quiet of "The Rainbow", which is shattered by harsh gusts of bluesy sound from Mark Feltham's over-driven harmonica. Peaks of crystalline noise and troughs of near-silence ensue as the group deploys the many instruments, though principally guitar and drums, with meticulous control and patience, gradually chiselling out a grand musical sculpture from the cold granite rockers.

David Sinclair

Pied piper of the junkyard: Tom Waits, singing in his inimitable, gruff style on *Big Time*

Vivid vocal portraits

Schubert: *Unser Herrscher* (Hyperion CD JS001)

With a generous and revelatory recital of Schubert's Goethe and Schiller settings, Janet Baker breaks the champagne bottle over one of the most important recording projects of the half-century.

Graham Johnson has devised for Hyperion a long-term series which, by the time Schubert's bicentenary is upon us in 1997, will have documented every one of the composer's 600 songs. It has never been done before. Fischer-Dieskau came pretty near it, but omitted those songs suitable for female voice alone. By a nice twist of irony, it was Baker who should have filled the gaps if only EMI had seen fit to release her from their exclusive contract: now history's imbalance is being redressed.

Documentation is hardly the word: Johnson's scheme is neither

Cabaret Classics
Gomez/Constable Unicorn
Kanchana DKP(CD) 9055

One could easily lose sight of Jill Gomez's record as yet another instance of the gentrification of cabaret, but that would be a great pity, since this is a beautifully sung recital of music both appealing and curious. Only seven of the 17 numbers, those by Schoenberg and Satie, were in fact written for ladies in top hats in smoky cellars, but though the Schoenberg songs are no more than naughty ephemera, one might well wonder after this performance if Satie ever wrote anything better than his waltz-song "Je te veux".

RECITALS

musicalological nor chronological. As a re-creator *par excellence*, his way is to build the archives with vocal portraits of a wide range of singers. It is a entirely Schubertian approach, no less true to the creative methods of the composer than that "interplay of great and small, light and shade, major and minor" which Johnson promises will inspire his long-term programming, and which, indeed, defines this first release.

Rarities, previously shunned earlier or later versions of classics, and the more familiar songs interlarded each other in a recital as enticing to listen to as it must have been to plan. Thirteen-minute epics like Schiller's "Die Erwartung", tougher challenges like the unrivaled "Der Fichtelberg" and "Der Alpenjäger" take their turn with the later, more complex "An den Mond" and the earlier,



Jill Gomez: appealing and curious

Of the other two composers, Zemlinsky is represented by three songs (from his Op 27) that take just a flavour of cabaret into the drawing room, and Weill is for once de-Brecht with a selection of songs from the 1934 Paris show

simpler tip-toeing settings of "Das Geheiss".

Baker's insight and ardour in "Der Alpenjäger" (a song which the anti-bloodsports brigade should take as their anthem) makes it seem incredible that the song should ever have been dismissed out of hand. At times, she is a little austere in her approach: "Ananias", Schiller's counterpart to Gretchen, is more restrained than the music suggests. And, although she captures exactly the smiling strength of "Der Fischer", the voice is more instinctively at ease in the somber songs of yearning ("Erster Verlust") or determination ("Der Pilgrim").

Johnson is a characteristically astute accompanist, and also provides searching essays and notes which far surpass the normal sketchy compact disc enclosures, and offer worthy support to what will doubtless become an invaluable archive.

Hilary Finch

Marie Galante and from three of the Broadway musicals. Gomez's performances are all the better for her refusal to pretend she is anything but a "classical" singer in full, rapturous voice, and John Constable's deft, straight-laced accompaniments have their own charm in this repertory.

Weill on Broadway is not so far from Britten nearby at the same time, as the first recording of *Paul Bunyan* reminds us. As I mentioned when this cast performed the piece recently at Aldeburgh, it is a great advantage to have American voices in such an oddly American work, and the recording can be recommended to those keen to ponder what Britten might have become as a New Yorker.

Paul Griffiths

It is understandable for an orchestra with a new principal conductor to want to celebrate a new era by rushing out a few recordings. But I wonder whether Riccardo Chailly and the Concertgebouw Orchestra will, a few years hence, look back on these recordings of Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony and Brahms's *First Symphony* with slight regret.

There is much that is potent: the new Italianate punchiness, for instance, which invests the fugal passages and shock chords of the *Manfred* finale with a whipcrack impact one would not normally associate with the aristocratic Amsterdam sound; the plump arching of dynamics which Chailly encourages, and the contrasting touches of delicate sweetness which lighten the Brahms's Andante and the *Manfred* Scherzo; the stylish execution of notorious conducting tests like the accelerating *pizzicato* build-up to the Brahms's finale. And in both discs, too, there is an evident eagerness in the playing.

But this orchestra's "sound" is a precious heritage which should be guarded jealously. In *Manfred*, particularly, there is an oddly unfocused quality to the recording, which perhaps indicates that the Decca engineers have not come to terms with the Concertgebouw acoustics.

Chailly clearly favours a soaring, hard brass sound — but in places like the storming apotheosis of the *Manfred* first movement, the overall texture rather splinters under the pressure of too-prominent brass.

Again, at the announcement of the Brahms finale's great theme, the amount of prominence allotted to incidental woodwind detail seems unrealistic. Then there is the irritating wrong note in the first brass chorale of the same movement — a tiny blip, but it should have been picked up — and some slightly sloppy ensemble on the big tutti choruses in *Manfred*'s introduction.

Auspicious if not brilliant

CLASSICAL

Brahms: *Symphony No 1; Academic Festival Overture* (Concertgebouw/Chailly, Decca 421 295-2 (one CD))

Tchaikovsky: *Manfred* Symphony (Concertgebouw/Chailly, Decca 421 441-2 (one CD))

Tchaikovsky: *Violin Concerto*, Prokofiev: *Violin Concerto No 1* (Zimmermann, Berlin PO/Mazel, EMI EL 7 49758 1 (one LP))
Sibelius: *Symphonies 3, 5* (Helsinki PO/Berglund, EMI CDC 7 49175 2 (one CD))
Dvorak: *Symphony No 4; Ten Biblical Songs* (Rayner Cook, SNO/Järvi, Chandos CHAN 8608 (one CD))

So the discs must be rated as an auspicious, but not quite brilliant, start to the partnership.

Frank Peter Zimmermann is the latest bright young violinist to hit the international scene. A German in his early twenties, he is not unlike his compatriot Anne Sophie Mutter in his silky, generally light tone, though not yet in that lady's league when it comes to subtle variation of timbre or interpretative imagination.

When the opening movement of the Tchaikovsky concerto breaks free of a rather odd rubato habit (a tendency to pull up notes sharply on the penultimate note) it takes flight with impressive fluency and lyrical grace, though there are moments when the intonation is questionable.

The slow movement, too, has some delightful phrasing ideas. But the finale suffers from a lack of bite in the fast passagework, and the second subject lacks the necessary stamping vigour.

Prokofiev's *Concerto No 1* is altogether more convincing. Zimmermann revels in the high, ethereal rhapsodic writing of the outer movements (where Mazel's

alert handling of the Berlin Philharmonic adds to the beauty); and the *Vivacissimo* scherzo, though devoid of any sardonic bite, is mercurially done.

The Helsinki Philharmonic should play Sibelius well, but their accounts of the Third and Fifth Symphonies under Paavo Berglund are surprising as well as good: the Finnish spirit, so often portrayed (by Sibelius, anyway) as stoic, brooding or battling for survival, emerges here with almost a jolly face.

Of course, the Third Symphony is probably Sibelius's most Anglosphere: a rustic idyll shot through with Sibelius's brand of quirky modalism (to say nothing of what the sleeve-note intriguingly describes as "Finno-Ugric shamanistic drum-beating").

The Helsinki PO's generally light-footed performance — enhanced by a slightly misty recording quality — emphasizes this optimistic side. There is plenty of discipline in the way the strings knock down to the quintessential Sibelian *moto perpetuo* passages, but also some particularly characterful woodwind solo work

in the delightful middle movement.

Some may feel Berglund's interpretation of the Fifth to be too jolly; the work was, after all, forged during the First World War, yet here there is a crucial lack of intensity, particularly in the gathering certainty of the finale.

The first movement is far more satisfactorily built up, but the glory of this performance is really the magical gentleness of the flute duets, horn chords and pizzicato string passages in the slow movement. Not, then, a performance for those who want epic beef in Sibelius; for that, turn to Karajan.

Meanwhile we will turn to Neeme Järvi, whose sudden evacuation from the principal conductorship of the Scottish National Orchestra appears not seriously to have dented his evident aspiration to record every symphony written in Eastern Europe during the last 150 years.

Although the SNO violins have certain moments of crisis in the stratosphere, his new recording of Dvorak's Fourth Symphony is welcome: straightforward in interpretation though by no means bereft of character, it reminds us how many lyrical jewels are hidden in Dvorak's pieces that, inexplicably, almost never reach the concert hall.

This is the symphony that was written under the spell of Wagner, though — not unexpectedly — it is weakest where it is trying to rewrite the *Pilgrims' Chorus*, and strongest where Dvorak produces a tune of such seemingly artless beauty that it could come from no other pen.

The second subjects of both outer movements qualify in this category. The filler is that earnest collection, the *Ten Biblical Songs*; Brian Rayner Cook gives a typically whole-hearted and strongly enunciated performance.

Richard Morrison

Defining new boundaries

INTERNATIONAL

Vanessa Paradis M&J (Polydor POLD 5232)
Astor Piazzolla *Tango: Zero Hour* (Pangaea/CBS 461156)
Yomo Toro *Funky Jibaro* (Anitiles AN 5723)

"Marilyn peint sa bouche... elle pense à John... rien qu'à John", she sings. Unfortunately there is also an English version, with a clumsy lyric ("Marilyn peint sa bouche" mysteriously becomes "Marilyn was a Russian") and a gawky vocal which simply proves that, by and large, people sound better in their first language.

Sadly, too, the rest of M&J, her debut album, fails to live up to the promise of the two singles. "Chat Ananana" — a phonetic pun on the early-Seventies rock-revival group Sha Na Na, perhaps — proves that a song about one's pineapple cat can plausibly be set to an arrangement resembling a lauded and starched version of the Brotherhood of Breath's Soweto jive, but Franck Langolff (music) and Etienne Roda-Gil (words) really owe it to themselves and

Penguin Café Orchestra When in Rome (Editions EG EGED 56)

Harold Budd *The White Arcades* (Land 03)

Ennio Morricone *Chamber Music* (Virgin/Venture VE 24)

Original Soundtrack *Frantic* (Elektra 960 782)

Mile Paradis to try harder. Otherwise, I fear that "Joe le Taxi" will go down in pop history as one of the nicest of all one-hit wonders — alongside, say, Norma Tanega's "Walking My Cat Named Dog".

Elsewhere in world music, Sting's new label makes its debut with a batch of releases including Astor Piazzolla's *Tango: Zero Hour*. Recordings of the brilliant Argentinian button-acordionist and composer have hitherto been elusive: this one, featuring the superlative quintet which Piazzolla brought to the Almeida Festival three or four years ago, is fully representative of his technically astounding, emotionally devastating "new tango" music.

Not a world away from Piazzolla comes Yomo Toro, a Puerto Rican player of the guitar-like cunistro, who made a name for



Vanessa Paradis: one hit wonder?

himself in New York salsa circles in the Seventies. Funky Jibaro delves back before salsa, to the vivacious but gentler Afro-Cuban style known as charanga, with an ensemble featuring violin, bass, percussion and a subtle synthesizer backing Toro's deft solos.

For a bunch of middle-class English kids, the Penguin Café Orchestra succeed amazingly well in capturing the vibrant essence of South American music. Recent converts will find in *When in Rome*, recorded at the Festival Hall last year, the chance to encounter their version of "Giles Farnaby's Dream", recast in the style of Los Paraguayos — an arrangement which, when orig-

inally released in 1976, convinced me that here was an ensemble worth keeping an eye on.

Once a stablemate of the Penguins on Brian Eno's *Obscure Records*, the American composer Harold Budd qualifies as a "world musician" only by virtue of being otherwise unclassifiable. The *White Arcades*, released on Eno's latest label, features the now familiar sound of Budd's echo-laden piano drifting in elegant introspection against shimmering synthesizer washes, like Keith Jarrett lost in deep space.

His pioneering soundtrack work on Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns made Ennio Morricone the spiritual father of the world music movement, able to call on a repertoire of musical gesture ranging from the rain forests to the Renaissance, from Stravinsky to the Shadows. Chamber Music, though, is something else: a collection of slightly self-conscious compositions for various instrumental ensembles, including an ensemble of 11 violins. But Morricone's particular gift is for what might call applied music, which is why the swooning orchestral melodies and funky bass-guitar of his latest soundtrack, to Polanski's *Frantic*, are both more satisfying and, ultimately, more significant.

Richard Williams

CONGRATULATIONS TO
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS
Principal Conductor
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Portrait of Michael Tilson Thomas
This new selection features the renowned performances by Michael Tilson Thomas of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* (excerpts), Gershwin Overtures, and the music of Prokofiev, Debussy, Beethoven, Stravinsky, and Kurt Weill.

Portrait of Michael Tilson Thomas
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MASTERWORKS

THE WEEK AHEAD

Jumping into the Ring

MARK PEPPER

Since the Royal Opera's first Bayreuth-derived production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* was conducted by Gustav Mahler in 1892, Covent Garden has seen 11 different productions of Wagner's great cycle. *Das Rheingold* (opening next Thursday at 8pm) launches a new *Ring*, which will be staged as a complete cycle for the first time in 1991. It coincides, of course, with the Royal Opera's new directorial regime: it will be conducted by Bernard Haitink and directed by Yuri Lyubimov, who gave the company such a compelling *Jenufa* last season. For both men, this will be their first *Ring*, as it is for Paul Harnon who provides innovative set and costume designs. The casting displays a promising forecast of things to come: a combination of major international Wagner singers and young British artists. James Morris makes a long-awaited house debut as Wotan; East German baritone Ekkehard Witschla is the Alberich; and American soprano Nancy Gustafson (outstanding this year as Glydeboorne's Katya Kabanova and, later, Alice Ford in *Faust*) takes the role of Freia. Judith Howard and Anne Mason are the Woglande and Wellgunde, with Roderick Kennedy as Fiesko and Willard White as Fasolt. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-249 1066), 8-10.30pm, £2-£64.



Fired with enthusiasm: Yuri Lyubimov (centre) rehearsing this week

THEATRE
LONDON

BADLANDS: Double bill of thrillers by Dave Draper, presented by Metro Theatre Company. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 (01-223 2223). Opens Thurs.

BOB'S DYLAN: Edinburgh Fringe first award-winner: Bob Kingdon as poet Dylan Thomas. Etcetera Theatre, Oxford Arms, 265 Camden High Street, NW1 (01-482 4857). Opens Tues.

DRY ROT: Brian Rix, Derek Griffiths, Esmet Gray, Richard Vernon, Nick Wilton, Derek Wilton, in John Chapman farce which was first a hit in 1954. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3666). Previews today, Mon, Tues. Opens Wed.

THE PUBLIC: Postponed from last week. Gerard Murphy leads the company directed by Uta in Federico Garcia Lorca's most notorious play, overtly homosexual in theme. Theatre Royal, Stratford East, Gerry Fairless Square, E15 (01-534 0310). Previews from Mon. Opens Oct 3.

THE RELAPSE: British Actors' Theatre: Kate O'Mara, Roy Marsden, Richard Heffer, Peter Adamson, Sabrina Franklyn and John Chellis, directed by Peter Woodward, in the Vanbrugh comedy. Touring nationally from here. Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond (01-940 0088). Opens Mon.

OUT OF TOWN

BASINGSTOKE: Noises Off: Season opens with Michael Freyn (farce). Haymarket (0256 485566). Opens Thurs.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

- BLECH** (b) Or Blech, an American expression of exasperation or disgust, reminiscent of the French *bleu*. Dorothea Cramer launched its response to *Beauclerc*: BLECH.
- GOONT** (b) A kind of pony of the North Highlands, strong but clumsy, from its Hindi name *gaut*. There is a small kind of horse, called *goat*, a true travelling scale-cliff beast.
- QUINQUA** (a) A person overly occupied with trivial curiosity and prurience, from the Latin *quinq* 'five'. 'A quinquarian had a small kind of horse, called *goat*, a true travelling scale-cliff beast.'
- REMANET** (c) The postponement of a case in law, from the Latin *remanere*. 'English law, a UK parliamentarian Bill carried over to another session from the Latin for "it remains".'

NOTTINGHAM: Plaza Suite: Janet Brown and Kenneth Alan Taylor in Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple'. Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

PLYMOUTH: Macbeth: Orchard Theatre's production will tour the South West. South Theatre Royal (0752 889555). Opens Mon.

TAUNTON: The Tempest/Philoctetes: Check by Jowl begin a national tour of a Shakespeare and Sophocles double bill. The Tempest approximately two hours, 40 minutes. Philoctetes one hour 15 minutes. Brewhouse (0823 283244). Opens Tues.

CONCERTS

PLUS BEETHOVEN: In the 'Beethoven Plus' series, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields is heard in Schenck's *Die Dorfbauer Overture*, Spohr's *Symphony No 5* and Murray Perahia solos in Ludwig's *Piano Concerto No 5*, 'Emperor'. Sir Neville Martinson conducts. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Today, 7.30pm.

ABBEY SIMON: A pianist who appears here all too rarely. Abbey Simon plays Chopin's *Sonata Op 35*, Bach's *Minuet in G*, and the *Waltz*, Beethoven's *Sonata Op 27 No 2* 'Moonlight', Ravel and Mendelssohn.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Tomorrow, 3pm.

BRITISH FRAGRANCE: Rafael Frithbeck de Burgos conducts the LSO in Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia*, Elgar's *Cello Concerto* (Felix Schmidt, soloist), and the *London Symphony Chorus* joins in for *Beethoven's Mass* by Walton. All this is supported by the British Fragrance Association. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891) Tues, 7.45pm.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Tonight, Mon and Wed 7.30pm, revival of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* conducted by Jane Glover; on Tues and Fri at 7.30pm, Dame Gwyneth Jones resplendent as *Turandot* in a revival of Andrew Serban's spectacular production. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-249 1056).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: David Pountney's thoughtful new production of *La Traviata* continues, with Helen Field and Arthur Davies, on Thurs at 7.30pm; tonight and Tues at 7.30pm; with John Rigby; and on Wed and Fri at 8pm *Tosca*, with Janice Cairns. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-538 3161).

KENT OPERA: Starts its new touring season on Fri at 7.30pm with a re-working of Adrian Noble's 1983 production of *Don Giovanni* with Peter Knapp in the title role.

SATURDAY RADIO

SUNDAY

Compiled by Jane Rackham

CHOICE I have been listening yet again to *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (Radio 4, 12.25pm) hoping that, once and for all, I will be able to identify the precise quality which makes it unique. It is too simplistic to say that it is the writing (by Douglas Adams) that makes it the only space comedy to appeal to all ages and heights of brow. It would be grossly unfair to the rest of the cast to say that it is

conductor's skill of producer Geoffrey Perkins that finally does the trick, fusing the elements into a fantastic whole? To help me (and you) decide the issue, BBC Enterprises have put the whole of *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series on cassette and into the shops in a terrestrially-designed presentation box.

Peter Davalle

RADIO

CHOICE

Radio 1 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 2 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 3 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 4 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 5 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 6 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 7 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 8 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 9 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 10 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 11 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 12 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 13 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 14 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 15 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 16 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 17 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 18 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 19 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 20 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 21 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 22 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 23 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 24 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 25 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 26 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 27 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

Radio 28 6.55 Magic America: The Lontano Ensemble under Oudine de la Martinez perform works by Villa-Lobos, Henry Cowell and George Newson's BBC commissioned work, *O My America*, with Neil Cunningham (narrator).

BOOKS

Acting out the role of thespian

Once asked Noël Coward about the stage play he had allegedly written based on *Star Quality*. Well, he said, he had completed it and then decided it was not interesting enough to put on. The trouble was that it was exclusively about the trials and tribulations of show business, and while everyone inside show business thought everything that happened to them was of absorbing interest, no one outside gave a damn about how a show got on the road, provided it did.

Faced with a book about an actor the size of Melvyn Bragg's new biography of Richard Burton, it is difficult to dismiss Coward's strictures. Has there ever been an actor to whom nothing happened that was not showbiz, who was yet interesting enough to sustain such detailed personal consideration? Fans of *Mommy Dearest* and *My Mother's Keeper* would probably agree that they come within the Coward guidelines. And autobiographies are different, since they ultimately depend more on the talent of the writer to make what happened to him interesting than on the inherent interest of whatever it was.

Here, at least, Rich has an advantage: the very extensive use it makes of Burton's own unpublished notebooks. We knew already that Burton had ambitions as a writer, culled, perhaps, from early contacts with Dylan Thomas. (Thomas, certainly, seems to be the strongest influence on pieces published during Burton's lifetime.) And whenever he got fed up with the acting game, or somehow disillusioned, Burton would regularly think he might become a writer instead.

So it is not surprising that we catch a glimpse of him keeping a rather ordinary 14-year-old schoolboy's diary, shortly before the start of his relationship with

John Russell Taylor reads the latest hefty biography of Richard Burton, actor and professional hell-raiser

Rich, The Life of Richard Burton by Melvyn Bragg (Hodder & Stoughton, £15)

Philip Burton, the "spotless bachelor" ("improperly unthinkable", telegraphs Bragg) who was to become his sponsor, mentor, and surrogate father, and hand on his name.

From 1966 onwards, he kept intermittently notebook diaries cum commonplace books which had amounted by the time of his death to 350,000 words. These would seem to have gathered up his passing comments on books he was reading and events of the day, mostly unexceptional (he is shocked by Stephen Ward's trial, why about Teddy Kennedy's misfortunes, and so on); they are really interesting only on three things: his professional self-analysis, his relations with Elizabeth Taylor (the notebooks begin around *The Taming of the Shrew*), and the occasional critical comment about fellow actors. One gets the impression that Bragg has salvaged everything (and perhaps rather more than everything) worth keeping.

So, then, why this book? Not just, I think, because Burton had his name in lights throughout the world, for no have many others not deemed suitable for this hefty memorializing. Was he, finally, the star who came in from the cold, giving up brilliant prospects in the theatre for the creature comforts of a place in the Hollywood sun? Or was he, rather, the star who never (quite) was? Whatever may be thought of his acting

skills on stage or film, the fact remains unarguable that his real fame stems from his relationship with Elizabeth Taylor, begun when, after a not particularly distinguished career in films, he was second choice to play Antony to her Cleopatra. From then on the world was agog — but about the pair of them rather than him in particular, even after they had divorced, remarried, divorced, and gone through a further spouse or two apiece.

He always liked to say that she was the better actor. Whether he really meant it or not, as far as the screen is concerned he was probably right. She was certainly the more convincing movie star. But then she had been a star in the era of Lonella and Hedda, when people were interested in your private life because of what you did on the screen. He became a star in the age of the *paparazzi* when the tail of private life tended to wag the dog of career.

Too often he just walked through his role with evident boredom; occasionally he acted too much, as though to remind us that he had played Hamlet. In one of the more striking notebook asides he compares himself (defensively) with Paul Scofield: no one remembers, he says, that Scofield built a gut to become a movie star and failed. But one wonders whether a more immediate comparison would not be with John Neville; Neville, too, was touted as the next great

actor, but shortly disappeared to re-emerge in Canada as a respected director and manager. Who knows what would have happened to Burton if he had not shifted to the cinema when he did? The fantasy of the great career one might have had is always more comfortable than the hard slog of actually trying to live it out. And Burton seems to have been, for all his intelligence and superficial energy, deeply lazy.

He was, of course, one of a generation of "Celtic" drinking, roistering, headline-hitters, Irish (Richard Harris, Peter O'Toole) and Welsh (himself, Stanley Baker). He cheerfully speculated that, in his own case, this might come from a fear of homosexuality. More likely, for all of them, it stemmed from a deep doubt about whether being a film star was any job fit for a man.

Since no one else will, I cannot resist contributing my most vivid memory of him (them), which seems to me particularly typical of the charm, the irritant quality, and the characteristic mixing of motives. I had gone to Sardinia to see some shooting on *Boom*. As chance would have it, I was first introduced to Elizabeth Taylor. Her response was brief and to the point: 10 words, mostly choice expletives, and off she swept. Moments later, it was Burton's turn. He fixed me with his basilisk eye. "You're the one who said I was selfish," I said, feverishly trying to recall what I had said about *The Taming of the Shrew*. "Cloddish, then. No! Well, I'll remember. Never forget a review. Never." He turned on his heel and stalked out. But then at the door he turned, his features suffused with a schoolboy grin. "Well anyway," he announced, "it's already taken eight million domestic."



Worlds and games

SCIENCE FICTION



Arthur C. Clarke: Ideas man

Sex has been added. As though believing that his limitless, but passionless, concepts might need a horizon of reeling-and-writhing humanity to define them better, and perhaps more commercially, Arthur C. Clarke, the great science fiction veteran, has introduced a misplaced kettie of steaminess in his latest epic, *Cradle* (Gollancz, £11.95).

Perhaps it is collaboration with space-scientist Gentry Lee — a public-relations name if ever I heard one — that has brought about the too-obvious body language. But admirers, such as myself, will find such horizontal gymnastics distracting from what is, without embroidery, one of his greatest themes: the nurture of seed-podded godlings beneath the Earth's seas.

Clarke's characters move, as usual, with the jerky mobility of matchstick figures, but the ideas are what matter with this author, and the notion of an ocean boiling with future possibilities is worth infinitely more than all the sexual churn.

Iain Banks's second science-fiction, *The Player of Games* (Macmillan, £11.95), brings his gifts for the genre into sharper focus: a fantasy-skewed narrative so taken for granted it becomes unacceptably acceptable and credible to us, as in this story of the great game-player who takes on a match that burrows through time and space in its own philosophy. Tremendous.

The Coming of the King: The First Bolstoy (Bantam, £12.95), an initial helping of sage-pudding, is wondrously satisfying with its evocation of a medieval murk illumined by the light of spiritual belief. The writer has the great talent of convincing us that we think as members of another time, a separate place.

Tom Hutchinson

After the end of the Raj, Britain regarded its erstwhile empire with nervous embarrassment until a new generation of Britons, on hippie travels, were surprised by its legacy in countries round the world. With this generation, the word "empire" became shorn of personal significance, freed of any twinges of conscience. From the late Seventies, as Edwardes points out, there has been nostalgia — not for the Raj in particular, but for the British Empire (as a whole) and for the loss of world power that was the inevitable consequence of de-colonization.

We are, perhaps, still not far enough away to look back at the Raj with complete impartiality, but four decades do provide distance enough for an interim assessment of those who made and sustained the Raj.

Tapestry of life under a tropic sun

That is what Edwardes attempts in this elegant, variegated, and kaleidoscopic patchwork, exploring the highways and byways of the Raj to select and offer what is in many ways the most interesting information for us today: the minutiae of empire, details of the way in which memos, diplomats, mercenaries, traders, and civil servants lived and worked in British India.

There was, for example, King Collins, who, in his capacity as Resident at the court of the Maharaja Sindia, always travelled with his complete zenana, and a private brigade of artillery — the sole purpose of its existence being

to fire salutes to him. Henry Russell, Resident at the court of Hyderabad, bled the kingdom for taxes until the population rebelled; then sent in a British military force — a Nizam's expense. Soon after this, Russell turned the kingdom over to the banking house of William Palmer & Co, who became the effective rulers of Hyderabad, not infrequently besieging villages for payment of taxes.

Colonel Skinner, son of a Scots father and a Rajput mother, once in the employ of a Maratha prince, later joined the British and was rewarded with a valuable estate and the Order of the Bath. He never learnt much English, and

The Delhi and the Lotus: The British in India by Michael Edwardes (Constable, £14.95)

wrote his memoirs in Persian, the courtly language of Mughal India. He built what later served as Delhi's cathedral, until it was superseded by Lutyens's magnificent building in the centre of New Delhi. However, Skinner also built a mosque for the use of his family, who apparently remained Muslims.

Such people, colourful as they are, represent the exceptions. The life of the British soldier in India, for example, was unutterably dull: apart from an hour's drill, he did not seem to have anything to do

except sleep and eat. The average age for a soldier in Britain was 39½ in India, hardly 18. This was not due to the various battles so celebrated in the myths of British India: of all the men sent to India in the two-and-a-half centuries up to and including the Mutiny, 9,467 died, but only 586 were actually killed in action; the rest succumbed to disease and the effects of an inappropriate lifestyle under a tropic sun.

As a result, British India was very much a young man's world: Metcalfe, when appointed Resident at Delhi, was only 26; his brother, who was President of the Civil Court, was in his early twen-

ties; the head of the criminal court was even younger.

Edwardes builds up an entertaining and moving picture of the progress of empire, every scene filled with details hand-picked from a thousand books — though his acuity weakens at particular points as he approaches this century. "Take his view that intercommunal violence in India 'remained essentially unchanged'. This violence was, in fact, a relatively recent result of two factors: Hindu revivalism (paradoxically spawned by British rule) which grew upon the Indian nationalist movement; and Britain's divide and rule policy which deliberately manipulated and increased

the gap between these two communities, for example by choosing Hindus as top officials in Muslim states, and vice versa.

Looking back, Edwardes ruefully considers Indian words in English, which still retain their virility in common speech, one of the few permanent legacies of the British connection with India. He seems to forget the legacy of the 800,000 or so "Indian" immigrants now in Britain, but he would probably argue that that particular phenomenon is beyond the historical scope of his work.

What he has given to us is a work of magisterial authority and enormous readability, a tapestry rich in detail, a continuous barrage of surprise.

Prabhu S. Gupta

Return of the sleuth

CRIME

Freeman, the inventor of Dr Thorndyke, a medical legal consultant, who considers that the murderer, whose tiny mistake over footprints he spotted, had been much maligned by the world. Very good stuff, and a pleasant glimpse of pre-war Home Counties England.

There are two short novels in the Margery Allingham *No Love Lost* (Penguin, £3.95) of which I prefer the second, *Safer Than Love*. The headmaster of a preparatory school in a southern seaside town gets married to a much younger, extremely pretty girl, whose engagement with a young doctor has been broken. The headmaster is found murdered at the bottom of a well. All is unravelled painstakingly by the local superintendent of police, who tolerantly separates fact from gossip.

Amanda Cross takes the title *Sweet Death, Kind Death* (Virago, £4.50) from a poem by Stevie Smith. She is also tediously feminist, repetitively demonstrating the

superiority of women to men, and almost wrecks a good story by so doing.

Fortunately, she stays on the rails, to keep one absorbed in the curious case of the distinguished historian at a New England women's university who apparently committed suicide, but perhaps did not. Despite Cross thrusting feminism at me on every other page, I shall read more of her stories about her amateur sleuth who, predictably, is a woman.

Ride a Pink Horse (Penguin, £3.95) is by Dorothy B. Hughes, who makes her central character a tough Raymond Chandler/Dashiell Hammett type, saying and doing all manner of things I should have supposed no woman would have contemplated. There is a bizarre chase through a carnival in a New Mexico town, spattered with blood and social commentary. But the book is not at all bad in its vigour and excitement.

Woodrow Wyatt

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting paperbacks published this week:

Greedy Exaggerated the wit and wisdom (both a bit exaggerated) of Mark Twain, edited by Alex Ayres (Barrie & Jenkins, £5.95) Bon mots and pags from books, speeches, letters, and chat, arranged by sundry topic.

H.G. Wells Desperately Mortal by David C. Smith (Yale, £10.95) Large literary and public-and-private-figure biography by American academic.

Hockney Posters collected by Brian Egagott, introduction by Eric Shanes (Faber, £9.95) Comprehensive collection in colour, to coincide with next month's retrospective at the Tate.

Hollywood and the Box Office, 1895-1986 by John Izod (Macmillan, £9.95) First publication of study of the business and politics behind the flickering screen.

In Through the Head by William McIlvanney (Mainstream, £4.95) New and selected poetry from the Scottish novelist.

Life in the Land of the Living by Daniel Vinnur (Faber, £4.95) First publication of first novel set on a hot night in a seedy Florida town, in the tradition of harrowing Southern Williams.

Poems 1855-1987 by Roy Fisher (Oxford, £7.95) Expanded edition of the 1980 poetry by the unmistakably English poet whose style and aesthetics are nevertheless experimental and internationalist.

Revolutionary Petunias by Alice Walker (The Women's Press, £2.95) Poems about

Pictures in your hand

QUICK GUIDE

revolutionaries and lovers by the feminist author of *The Color Purple*.

Royal Kew by Ronald King (Constable, £9.95) Former secretary of the Royal Botanic Gardens on the history and daily life of the great scientific institution that is also a national pleasure-garden, from the handkerchief tree to the



folies and lilacs. *Shakespeare by Georgina Battiscombe* (Constable, £9.95) Biography of the seventh Earl, the Victorian reformer and crusader.

The City as a Work of Art by Donald J. Olsen (Yale, £12.95)

London, Paris, and Vienna, relating planning and architecture to the political values and social cultures that created them, and the way we live in them; heavily illustrated, well argued.

The Air Show by Peter Scupham (Oxford, £4.95) This seventh collection is a sequence of poems interlinked by childhood memories of the Second World War.

The Best of Robert Morley edited by Robert Morley (Robson, £8.95) Selected reminiscences, travel stories, causeries, funnies in honour of the 80th birthday.

The Case for Animal Rights by Tom Regan (Routledge, £7.95) Comprehensive philosophical and political development of an ethical theory based on rights, and including non-human animals among the holders of rights.

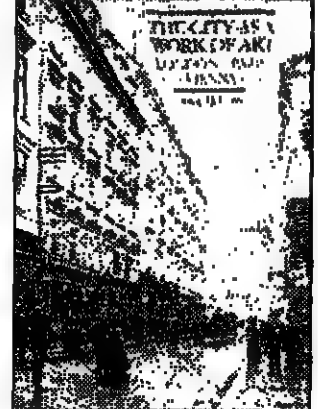
The Cloud Forest by Peter Robinson (Collins Harvill, £5.95) Writer and naturalist through the South American wilderness from the Sargasso Sea to Amazonia, and Machu Picchu to Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia.

The Garden of Eden by John Priest (Yale, £8.95) Illustrated history of the development of the botanic garden in Europe as a Utopian attempt to recreate Paradise on earth. *The Last Cuckoo* chosen and introduced by Kenneth

Gregory (Unwin Hyman, £4.50) Positively (well pretty positively) the last collection of letters witty, angry, pithy, rothy to the Old Ed., prettily introduced by Bernard.

The Legacy of Conquest by Patricia Nelson Limerick (Norton, £6.95) Anecdotal and jolly history of the American Wild West, and its unbroken continuity today.

The Oxford History of the Classical World: 1. Classical Greece and the Hellenistic World; 2. The Roman World



edited by John Boardman, Jasper Griffin, and Oswyn Murray (Oxford, £29.95 each) Brightest and best of our classical scholars (especially the Oxford ones) study our roots by themes, scholarly but accessible introduction to the past, attractively illustrated, with up-to-date advice on further reading.

The Stricken Deer by David Cecil (Constable, £8.95) Life of the gentle, domestic poet whose placid verse was in sharp contrast to his inner turmoil, Angst, and gloom.

Strong women, not spineless jellyfish

CHILDREN

Could you speak French on Mondays and Fridays, German on Tuesdays and Thursdays, English on Wednesdays and Saturdays and go-as-you-please on Sundays? Save the life of a Crown Princess by using your stockings as a rope? Marry a man 15 years your senior because he is a "solid senior" because he is a "solid senior"? Rescue a St Bernard puppy? Convert from a watery grave? Convert to Catholicism and have 11 children without noticing? Was your music master called Plato?

If so, you and Joey Bettany, the heroine of Elinor M.

Brent-Dyer's 58-strong series of girls' school stories, deserve each other. And here are the first four books in a canon which, equally miraculously, has been called Proustian, in a new collectors' edition with the exuberant original wrappers, gloomy little line drawings and a peach of a portrait of dear Miss Brent-Dyer herself, looking like a cat who has been at the cream.

Here are the hard-eating Chaleit girls growing into strong, helpful women, not spineless jellyfish ("You don't want *Mittagessen* till one,

surely, after the *Frukstuck* you ate at nine?"). Here is the spotless pre-Anschluss Tyrol of the Thirties where the Chaleitians sleep safe beneath their plumage and scale dizzying peaks by the simple

expedient of bending the knees a little at each step. Here is the head girl who asks for Holy Water for her final rinse. Here, above all, is the cosy muddle of breadth and narrowness, Guides and guide dogs, stiff upper lips and Grand Ducal states, telepathy and tennis.

Pneumonia permitting, the Chaleit girls marry the solid doctors who regularly rescue them from icy mountain streams and lakes. Then comes childbearing-as-a-race, which Joey, displaying unaccustomed team spirit, wins

by starting with triplets and two sets of twins. If you relish impressionism, slap-happiness, unpredictable smiles and predictable plots, you will relish these hopelessly addictive books.

Close your eyes. Isn't that the bell for *Kaffee und Kuchen*? Isn't that beaming Marie bearing piping hot bowls of milky coffee into the *Speisesaal*? And isn't that the smell of fresh-baked *Brötchen* in the air?

Martin Spence

Ghoul

MICHAEL SLADE

The book with the horrorgram

Look for the skull...

TRAVEL

Daredevils, deep snow and danger

With the thrills of skiing off-piste being advertised, Brian James sounds a warning

leader certificate has not yet been recognized by the ski authorities; another makes play of the fact its guides have "all attended a BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) course". (My italics.)

Most brochures lean almost as heavily on the BASI imprimatur. The barely believable reality is that of the 2,000 BASI instructors, fewer than one in 10 are qualified to lead skiers into off-piste powder. Even the top Grade One badge, won only after seasons of teaching, tests and assessments, does not, of itself, permit an instructor to lead off-piste.

Hazel Bain, administrator of the association, says: "BASI badge holders are teachers of skiing technique. But there is no guarantee they know a thing about snow other than the best way to negotiate the six feet of slope in front of them."

"A squeak beneath your foot means water lying somewhere — and thus poor adhesion between layers of snow. A tiny ball of snow at the end of a little trail means the stuff is ready to roll. These are avalanche conditions. But unless you have been in the valley before the first snow and know the surface, have seen the various layers pile up, you cannot know exactly where a slide might start."

"I can ski deep powder. Done so for years. But I am not qualified to lead you into the stuff, and wouldn't dream of doing so. For a start, BASI would throw the rule book at me. And in some countries, like Austria, I could end up in prison."

In the main Alpine countries, only government-authorized mountain guides may lead parties beyond the piste-markings. By no means do all Swiss and Austrian ski-instructors hold that qualification: the 15-20 per cent youngest and least experienced in any school almost certainly do not.

And not more than half the 80 to 90 Britons who have completed the gruelling Association of British Mountain Guides course, and are thus recognized as having parity with Alpine experts, are actually also engaged in skiing. How, then, from a maximum pool of 40, can dozens of tour operators adequately staff hundreds of resorts?

My answer is that they cannot. Theirs will come in an indignant chorus that they do not try to; that all their guides promise is to show clients the lay-out of the resort, how to evade lift-queues. But this ignores the reality of what happens when macho young men, under

the influence of a good lunch and the need to impress the maidens are urged: "Oh, don't be wimpish, show us the powder."

The Alpine authorities who have to go and retrieve bodies are under no illusion. Every year more resorts add restrictions on "guiding" to the traditional prohibition on ski-instruction by tour reps. Ernst Speiss, president of the Tyrolean instructors' association, says: "We had to act; the figures of accidents was rising and rising. We are getting this under control with the big operators, but the small tour people are still a problem."

"Even local guides have to go each day to the head of the instructors to find out what information he has from the avalanche research centre. The head alone must decide where it is safe. But boys from cities with maybe two, three years as skiers think they can know enough to lead parties."

"One British operator began this guiding a few years. Now they all follow. In Austria we are getting fierce on this. If they take people into powder, we throw them out of our towns. The Swiss, too. The French have always been more easy, but I know they will soon follow."

There is now a total ban on guides in Zermatt, where the director of skiing is Amadee Perrin: "We had to do this. For security. People face regulations and laws in their lives. When they



... or whirling past trees off-piste is only for the experienced

Flying down the mountains with the speed of a bird...

Would anyone of sense try to avoid congestion on motorways by taking to lanes knowing that a proportion were mined? Clearly not. Would they trust marked "safe" lanes through the minefield if told that the man who placed the marker cones was only semi-trained and did not know where the mines were buried? Again, obviously not. Yet, in a sense, that is precisely the peril many British skiers will slide into during the coming winter, when the innocent are led by the ignorant in search of greater adventure on skis.

The motorway analogy is apt, because it is the congestion of human traffic on the prepared and marked pistes that is persuading more and more of the boldest to go off-piste. Dozens die this way — caught in avalanches, or killed by falls on to rocks.

But it took the death in the spring of a friend of Prince Charles, in the same skiing party, to give prominence to the problem and to provoke one experienced Swiss instructor to say: "There are not one in 10 among British skiers capable of going safely in deep powder. The next King of Eng-

land, I must say this, is not one of them. But perhaps his escape will make other people look more at what they are doing, and listen when we talk of safety."

Would that the British winter-travel industry would show as much concern.

I carried out a survey of 24 brochures from the foot-high pack which has already arrived in this office. Of this sample, 20 write vividly of the potential for away-from-the-crowds, off-piste powder skiing; not one chooses to remind potential customers that this was an option that 90 per cent of them could not sensibly take up.

Nineteen of the 24 made a brisk selling point that now they, too, offer the services in the Alps of qualified men and women who will show customers around their chosen holiday mountain. Some call them "guides", others "ski leaders" or "escorts", or indicate that the ubiquitous "representative" will also, when time permits, blaze trails about the slopes. All tend to lean on that word "qualified" as heavily as a novice on his ski-poles.

But qualified by whom? And to do what? One brochure chirpily admits that its own-brand ski



Devastation in the snow: in the wake of an avalanche, mountain rescuers search for bodies

come to the mountains they want to be free, have no rules.

"We offer a compromise. We let the reps organize the social life, the travel. Then for two days we provide ski-guides to show parties over the mountains. The charge is small, maybe £30 for a group of 15. We do not think this is too much. More operators are beginning to accept this. More resorts are beginning to do the same."

One group that now only uses local, native, guides is Swiss Travel. Director Nick Banford explains why "this guiding thing was getting out of hand". Skiing clients were clearly more comfortable with their own language, so operators began tawling for expatriate Britons, Australian and American ski-bums, prepared to work for their keep, to lead groups about resorts.

"There were too many horror stories. So we decided to recruit from local ski schools. A little more expensive, but for peace of mind..." he said.

My minefield analogy was chosen, too, by Judith McCubbin, BASI instructor and director of Tailor-Made, a specialist ski-holiday operation: "I am horrified by some things I see happening. Tour

companies cover up with travel-speak for the fact that they let their clients out on the slopes in the charge of nice young lads, who are made properly aware of the danger, but not given the local knowledge to deal with it.

"It is not about how many qualification stripes you have on your arm, it is about what you know about where you are. Once someone has an instructor's badge, he ought to pack his rucksack, take a map and spend months touring his chosen resort... like a London cabbie has to take 'The Knowledge'."

Ski brochures ought to carry health warnings. After the breathless prose about the thrills of off-piste powder, the words "for experts only" ought to be mandatory. After the blurb about how ski "leaders" or "escorts" or "guides" will show you the slick routes about the place, the caution should run: "but don't ask them to lead off-piste... they'll risk the sack, and perhaps prison."

If you decide to abandon the patrolled areas to follow your "guide" into powder, you ought to know what you will be getting into — and that he quite probably does not.

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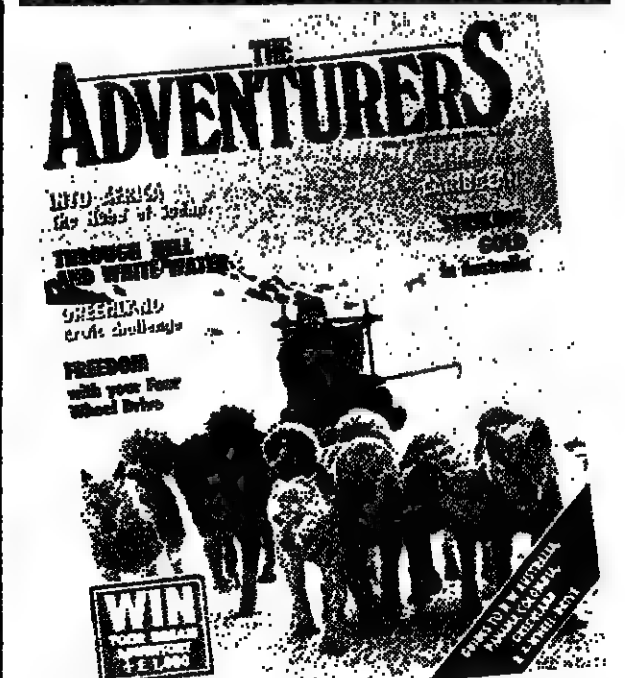
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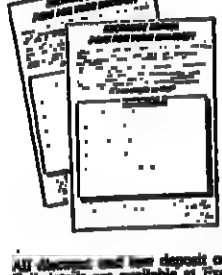
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Holidays Down Under for less than £700 will be available this winter following the Australian Government's decision to allow charter flights from the UK for the first time. The flights will be operated by Britannia Airways weekly from Luton, starting on November 30, and alternating between Perth and Cairns, the gateway for the Great Barrier Reef resorts.

The specialist operator Austral (01-734 7755) is offering stay-and touring holidays throughout the country. The £689 lead-in price is based on a seven-night stay at the four-star Perth Ambassador Hotel, followed by a week's independent touring. The cheapest scheduled fare from London to Perth on British Airways or Qantas ranges between £147 and £1,206.

After Gilbert

Jamaican hoteliers are confident that they will be operating normally well before the start of their main winter season, despite the ravages of Hurricane Gilbert.

The Jamaica Tourist Board says many of the best-known hotels in Ocho Rios, Negri and Montego Bay remain open for business, although electricity and telephone services may be limited in some cases; other hotels which are expected to reopen by October 1. Shops are open throughout the island and sightseeing tours have been re-started.

TRAVEL By charter to Oz



Fishing for compliments: cheaper to the Great Barrier Reef

The Jamaican Prime Minister, Edward Seaga, says the effect of hurricane damage on the tourism industry is only "marginal" in terms of the total number of hotel rooms. But the tourist board is advising visitors to allow another two weeks before travelling to the island, and has set up an information hotline on 01-409 0486.

British Rail is marking the start of the new academic year by cutting the price of its popular Young Person's Railcard from £15 to £10 between now and November 5. The card can be bought by

tours via Titograd in Yugoslavia. The new charter feed into three or four-night tours of Albania priced from £195 and £215 respectively, and there is also a one-week tour from £269. Information: 01-486 8080.

Join the club

Chester-based Elegance Resorts is making it easier to travel in style on its new programme of tailor-made holidays to top Caribbean hotels by reducing the supplement for return flights in British Airways "Club World" business class from £995 to £495. The reduction applies to flights to Barbados, St Lucia, Antigua, San Juan and Montego Bay, departing from Gatwick or Manchester until December 4. Information on 01-376 2417.

US bonus

Most airlines operating from the UK to the USA are now offering a "come-on" fare of £199 return this winter, but Continental Airlines has gone a stage further by throwing in a two-night weekend hotel break in New York for the same price. Similar deals are also available in other US cities, including Dallas at £299 and San Francisco at £329. Three or four-night breaks are also available, and flydrive weekends are offered at a number of gateways priced from £259. Information: 0293 776776.

Philip Ray

TRAVEL BOOKS

A century ago, Switzerland was a desperately poor country with government-subsidized emigration. Today it is a model nation state - stable, rich and peaceful. In *What Makes Switzerland Tick* (The Book Guild, £8.50), Richard Wildblood examines the Swiss phenomenon in a series of brief, lucid chapters on the country's history and institutions. This is not strictly a travel book; more a useful, easily-read political guide to a well-ordered democracy.

A certain sort of Englishman has traditionally been drawn to the life of nomadic Arabs in the desert. Michael Asher belonged to the breed. *Impossible Journey: Two Against the Sahara* (Viking, £12.95) published next Thursday, describes a year-long journey by foot and camel across the Sahara from Mauritania to the Nile. The book has added romantic interest because the journey was also a honeymoon for the writer and his Italian wife. Facy dialogues keeps the narrative alive, but Asher does not have the descriptive powers to lift the tale to classic.

Kate Finch



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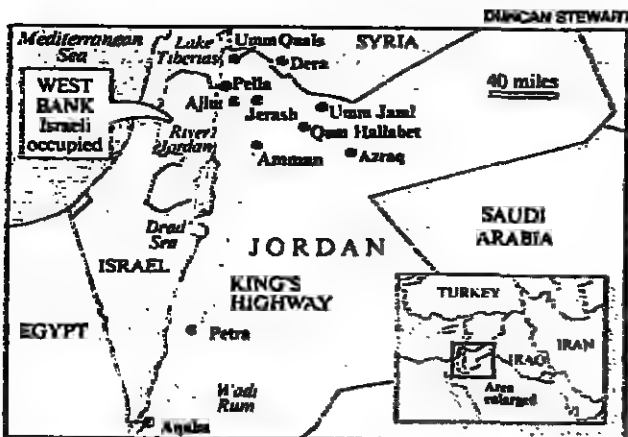
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TRAVEL

A time of sands

Andrew Sinclair explores the magical sights of the desert kingdom of Jordan, where the past is everywhere present



TRAVEL NOTES

The best tours of Jordan, which include self-drive holidays, are organized by Jasmin Tours (0753 889577) and Serenissima and Heritage Travel (01-730 9841). Jasmin's nine-day escorted tour taking in Amman, Petra

and Aqaba costs from £596, inclusive of half board, airport taxes and visa charges. Particularly good are the Holiday Inn at Aqaba and the Marriott Hotel in Amman. The Rest Houses at Petra, Karak and Azraq are good for their standard, but at Petra there is also the Forum Hotel, which is first class.

Roman theatre and the street of dark columns overlook the Colan Heights as far as Lake Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee, bringing back memories of walking on water, of loaves and fishes feeding multitudes, and of ancient and modern wars.

One lost city lies off the river road. Pella is now being excavated and will rival Jerash as a monument to Roman provincial architecture. Peace and contemplation rule in Pella. There is time to stand and stare, and imagine past peoples enjoying the sun and the clear sky, which remain the same for whosoever stops by there.

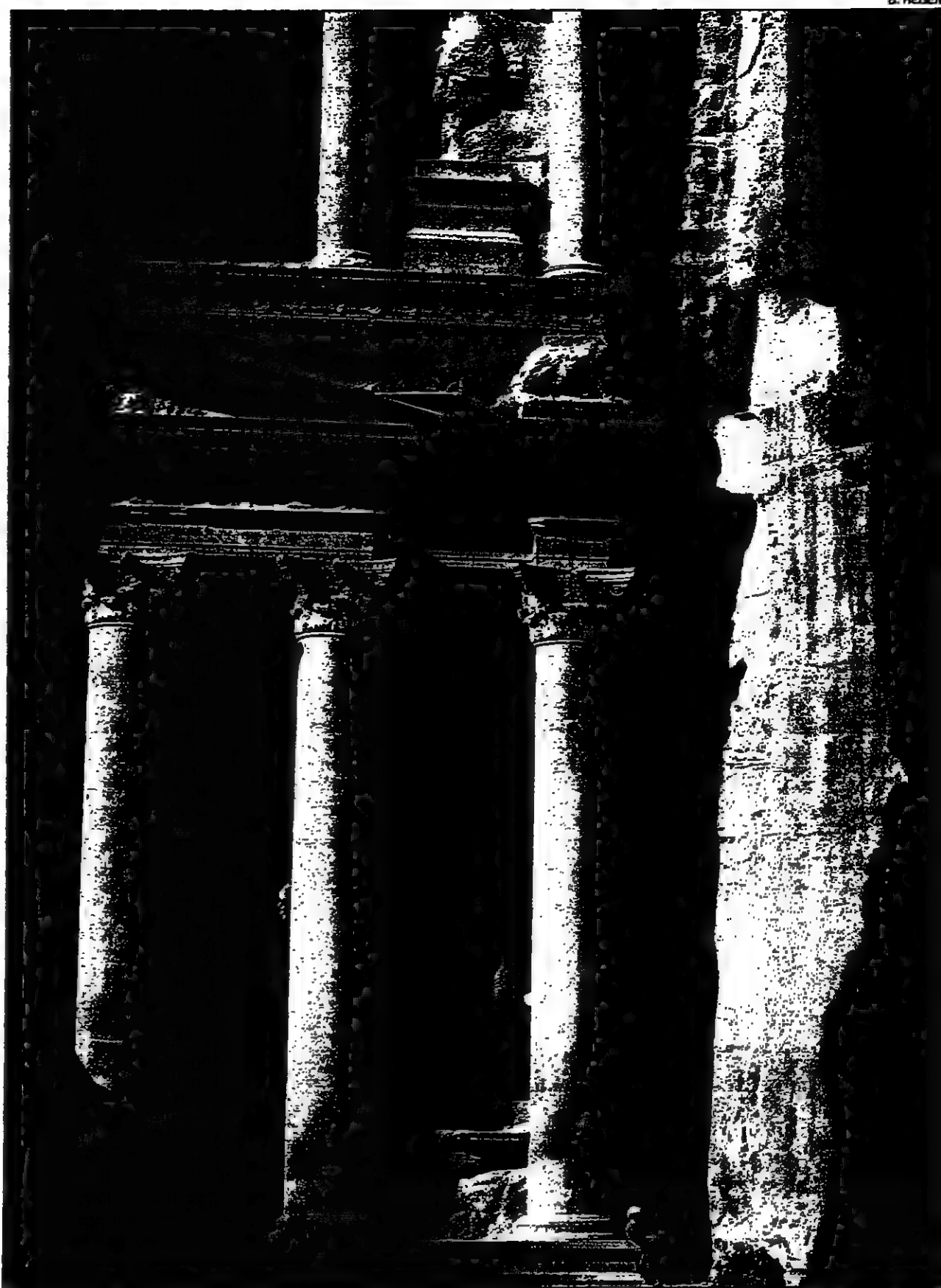
Jerash is the other marvel of Jordan, its streets of huge columns stretching down an avenue a mile long, its crescent of pillars and its Roman amphitheatre, where Queen Noor holds the splendid festivals of music, dance and theatre that make the restored ruins spring alive each year.

Jordan is a small kingdom no bigger than Britain. Only three million people live there, yet they run a full national service. The airlines and the roads are excellent, the streets are clean, a sense of security and of welcome to the stranger pervades all.

In the last two decades, there have been miracles of transformation by the conscientious King. A poor country has become a modern state without losing its respect for the traditions of the past. The Concorde passengers, indeed, ended by taking the desert railroad - and the last of the steam engines - to Dera, where Lawrence of Arabia met his ambiguous fate at the hands of the local Turkish bey.

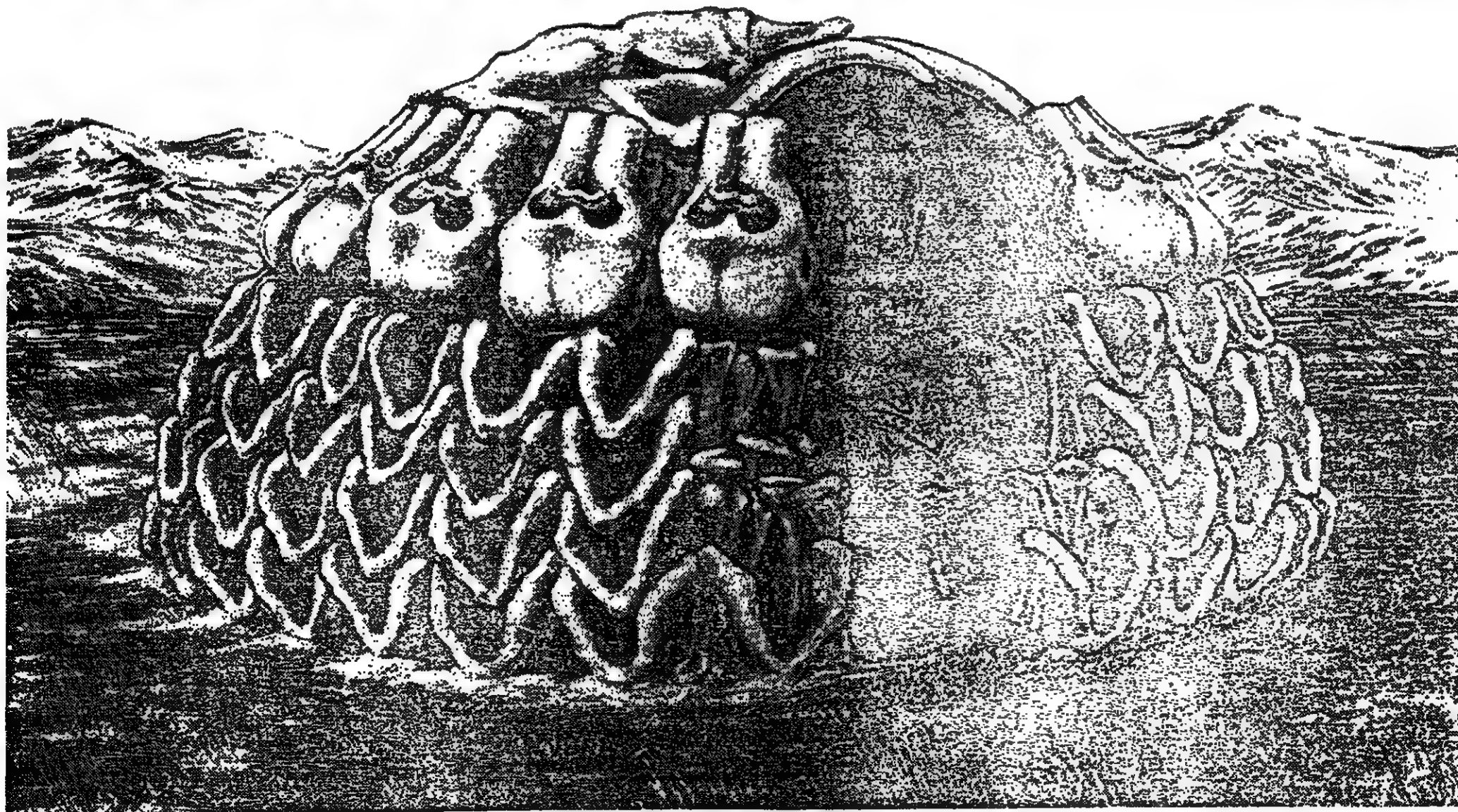
Armed horsemen attacked the train with ornamental rifles. They abducted the beautiful hostess. Then they invited the passengers to champagne and chamber music behind the sand dunes, where waiters stood beside a grand piano flown from Amman.

Ancient and modern with a sense of play, a holiday in Jordan will please.



Rose-coloured memories: Petra is half as old as time, and full of magical journeys across the crumbled works of mankind

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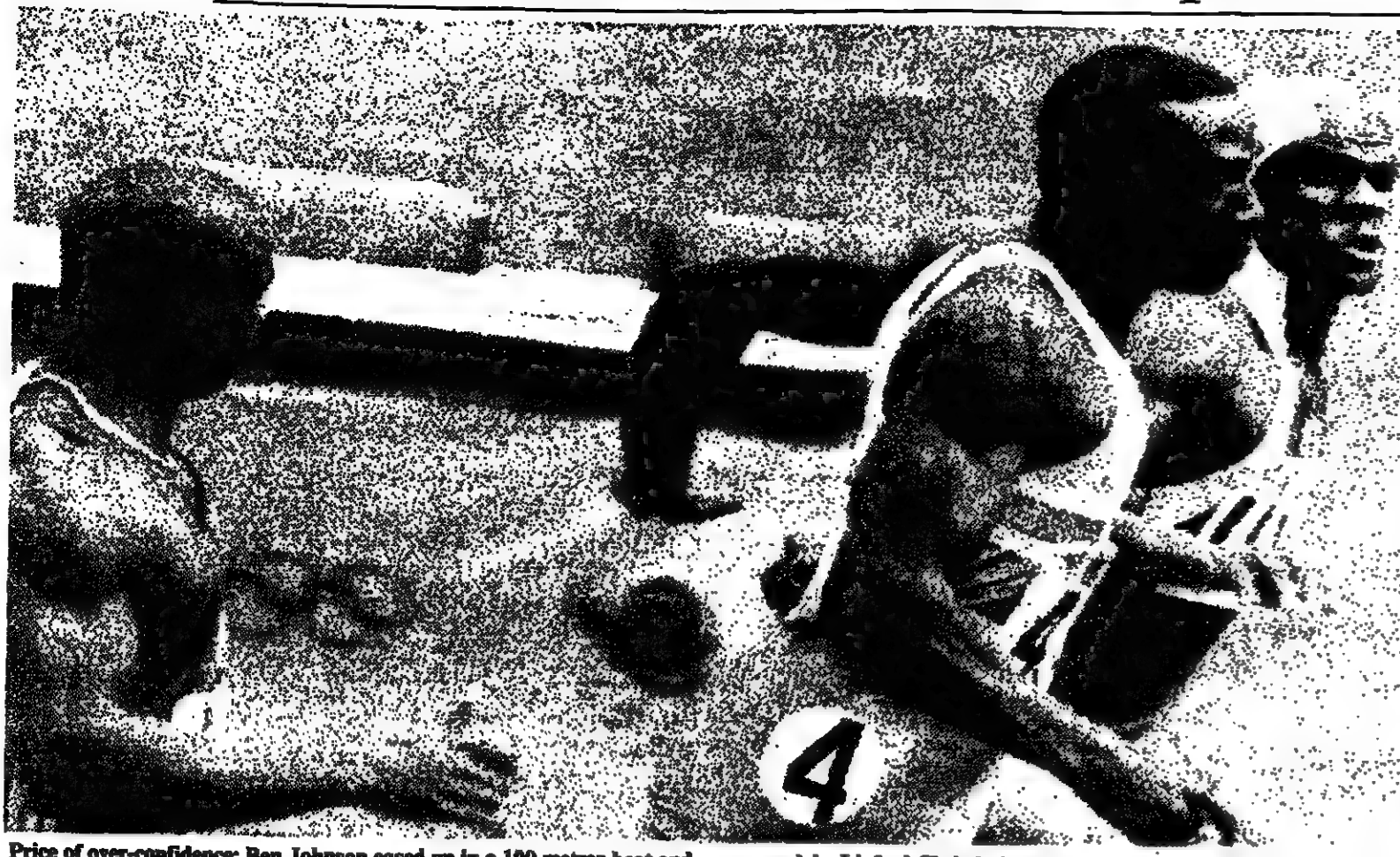
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SPORT & LEISURE

SECTION 4

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1988

Christie boosts his chances of a sprint medal



Price of over-confidence: Ben Johnson eased up in a 100 metres heat and was passed by Linford Christie (centre) and the American Dennis Mitchell

Johnson finds it tough to qualify

From Pat Hatcher
Athletics Correspondent
Seoul

John Regis can reasonably feel that he was one of the first victims of the chaos in the athletic stadium on the first day of competition here yesterday. Athletes were kept in call-up rooms for half-an-hour, then not permitted to have a few warm-up strides prior to their races.

Carl Lewis criticised the standard of starting, saying that the gun was being fired before people were ready. And Regis had the additional problem of slipping blocks. But he was also hauled by Pedro Agostinho, falling out of the adjacent lane.

In the ensuing mayhem, Regis failed to catch up with the pack in his heat, and was eliminated in the first round of the 100 metres, finishing fourth, when only the first three qualified. Barrington Williams at least got as far as the second round.

Lewis himself made sure of getting through to the second day, as did Linford Christie. But Ben Johnson eased up too much in his second round, and only got through as a fastest loser. Johnson implied that he was fooling around. But he is not known as a joker. That is a role Said Aouita has appropriated. After raising the possibility of running the 800, 1,500 and 5,000 metres, Aouita then maintained that he only intended to run one lap of the 800 metres, and then pull out, due to an injury that he got two days ago.

"But the track was so soft, I decided to keep going". Naturally enough, he managed to win, maintaining the tradition of victory in flat races, which stretches back to July, 1985.

Moessa Fall was the only favourite to go out on the first day. And he was completely to blame, easing off too soon in a slow race.

All the other big names got through including the British trio of Steve Cram, whose relatively slow run proved nothing other than his capacity to finish a race after injury, Peter Elliott and Tom McKean.



Showing the way: Liz McColgan, of Britain, is one of many women who will be the centre of attention in Seoul this week. Simon Barnes on women in the Games, page 50

Otto is in same class as Ender

Seoul - The "new Mark Spitz", Matt Biondi, may have won only three gold medals at these Games so far, but the "new Kornelia Ender", Kristin Otto, has fully justified all comparisons (Steven Downes writes).

Otto, of East Germany, last night equalled Ender's four gold medals, won at Montreal in 1976, when she stormed down the final length of the 100 metres butterfly to overtake Cathy Plewinski, of France, and Birte Weigang, the woman who beat her to the East German title, and set an Olympic and European record.

"This can't be true," she said, a thought she must have shared with Armin Wajdat, of Poland. He went into the 400 metres final as world record holder and second fastest qualifier, and bettered his own world best. When he looked up at the scoreboard, however, Wajdat saw that he had won only bronze.

Gillingham finds the gold just out of reach

From Steven Downes, Seoul

Nick Gillingham found Olympic gold just out of his reach in Seoul yesterday as for the second time in a day he broke the British record, which had stood for 12 years, to win silver in the 200 metres breaststroke.

Drawn in lane four as the fastest qualifier, after swimming 2min 14.58sec in the morning's heats to end David Wilkie's 18-year reign as British record-holder, Gillingham always knew his main threat would be Jozsef Szabo, the world and European champion from Hungary. So it proved.

Gillingham, aged 21, from Walsall, ignored the extraordinarily quick early pace of the two Soviet swimmers, and instead matched Szabo stroke for stroke to half-way, where the Hungarian turned fractionally ahead of him in third place.

"I knew that Jozsef would be very strong on the third length, and I knew I would have to come back very hard," Gillingham said. As the Soviets went back, it developed into a race between Gillingham and Szabo, as the



former British Olympic coach.

A bronze medal winner in the event at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh two years ago, Gillingham's world ranking last year would not have got him into the final, yet he is now the fourth fastest in history. He attributes his improvement to two sessions of weight-training each week, which have allowed him a more powerful pull through the water while maintaining the same, stylish stroke rate.

For a long time in the shadow of Adrian Moorhouse, the Olympic 100 metres breaststroke champion who only qualified for the B final of the longer event - which he did not swim - this success should bring Gillingham his own share of the limelight.

City of Birmingham swimmer closed with his smooth strokes. "But I was just not strong enough," he said, after Szabo reached the finish an arm's length ahead, with the Spaniard, Sergio Lopez, home in third.

Gillingham, whose best time before the Games had been 1.84sec slower than his final time, could do no more. "I gave my all," he said. "I had nothing left by the finish. It was a tough race. I'm absolutely delighted with the medal, though. When I came here, I would have just been satisfied with the British record."

Gillingham, who has been unemployed, concentrating on his sport, since leaving school at 16, is the product of five years' hard work under the guidance of Rick Bailey,

the former British Olympic coach.

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Scoring discrepancies cast shadow over climax to women's gymnastics

Judging performances on the mat

From David Miller
Seoul

The women's individual all-around gymnastics final produced an amalgam of beauty, excellence, prejudice and, ultimately, the absurd.

How else can be described the wonderful performances of Elena Shushunova, of the Soviet Union, and Daniela Silivas, of Romania, and their separation in determining the gold medal for the former by 0.025 of a point, or less than one 3,000th part of their totals, on the arbitrary opinion of six judges. No logical person can happily accept such a refinement of human discretion.

Certainly Adrian Goreac, Silivas's coach, could not willingly accept it, and said so when asked at the official Press conference after Shushunova had received the gold medal: one of the most prized in Eastern European sport. Goreac had been asked to give an opinion on the low mark awarded Silivas on her final exercise by Nellie Kim, the Soviet judge and herself a former champion.

Goreac said, with evident feeling: "My own unofficial opinion is when sportsmen or women receive a 9.8 we are not taking it very well. A 9.8 does not express a high level of endeavour. Such low marks do not express this level of sport." In other words, he implied, Romania was paying the price, of what we can not be sure - perhaps Romania's lack of solidarity in turning up in Los Angeles four years ago.

Shushunova's coach, Viktor Gavrichenko, had tried to interrupt the question, telling the experienced Norwegian journalist he should instead ask the judges. Shushunova's pert little face, hitherto all smiles and assurance alongside the despairing, pale, childlike Silivas, now fell into an expression of self-doubt and annoyance. It must be likely that every gymnastic expert in the Olympic park stadium, competitor, official or observer, will have known the verdict was questionable.

Silivas, in fact, beat



Shushunova: V for victory after a breathtaking duel

Shushunova on the day's four exercises by the same tiny margin she lost the medal, on account of the 0.050 points which the Russian carried forward from the preliminary. Silivas, aged 17 and Romania's replacement for Nadia Comaneci, led by 0.025 points going into the last exercise, the vaulting horse. To this untutored eye, her leap, spinning and twisting like a salmon, was faultless: the judges gave her 9.900.

Of six judges' marks, the top and bottom are discarded and an average taken on the middle four. Kim's persistent low marking would push into the average the other lowest mark. In popular sports it is clearly impossible to have judging panels that exclude

THE FATAL FRACTIONS

These tables show how narrow was the margin that separated Shushunova in the gold medal winning position from Silivas in the silver. After the team competition, from which each gymnast's average score from the compulsory and optional exercises is carried forward to the all-around individual competition, Shushunova led Silivas by 0.05 of a point. That made all the difference. Silivas could only pull back 0.025 of a point during the individual phase, not enough to oust her rival.

SCORES IN TEAM COMPETITION						
Name	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor	Total	Average
E SHUSHUNOVA (USSR)	10.000	9.925	9.900	9.900	39.725	
	10.000	10.000	9.950	10.000	39.950	
Totals	20.000	19.925	19.850	19.900	79.575	39.837
D SILIVAS (Romania)	9.900	10.000	9.875	10.000	39.775	
	9.900	10.000	10.000	9.900	39.800	
Totals	19.800	20.000	19.875	19.900	79.575	39.787
SCORES IN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION						
SHUSHUNOVA	10.000	9.900	9.925	10.000	39.825	39.837
Grand total						79.882
SILIVAS	9.950	10.000	9.900	10.000	39.850	39.787
Grand total						79.637

anyone of the same nationality as any of those competing, yet the vulnerability to prejudice in arbitrarily measured sports - boxing, figure skating, diving, gymnastics - is too evidently prevalent to pass notice.

It was, nonetheless, a spectacular competition between the two, however much at the end one might feel sorry for the little Romanian with the doll face and milkmaid's heavy hands. Although Shushunova performed with style her switched-hands grip in the asymmetric bars. Silivas had the edge with the first 10. On they moved to the beam. Shushunova, with those incredible backward somersaults landing blind on one foot, scored a fraction higher.

Silivas losing balance for a split second and being forced into an involuntary turn. Yet at times she kept contact with the beam with entwining legs like an ivy creeper. Look, no hands!

Silivas led on points as they performed their floor exercises. Shushunova, in her leotard of almost elderly sophistication, mauve, grey and black, utilized a Russian dance to give rhythm to a bewitching sequence; a delectable 10. Silivas was her equal, perhaps even superior, corkscrewing in mid-air, somersaulting incredibly from a kneeling position all to a jazz rhythm. Another 10.

Finally they were at the vault. Silivas, still leading, was drawn first, spinning like a coin, with barely a touch of the horse as she cartwheeled three times, yet received only 9.950. Shushunova was drawn last of the group of six. She warmed up meticulously, and was clearly relaxed as she chatted to her colleague Natalia Lachchenova, who had a fall on her first jump. Shushunova's first run was good but no more so, it seemed, than that of Silivas. It was a decisive 10.

The photographers crowded her. Silivas, a few yards away, sat on the floor, expressionless, and hardly glanced when Shushunova walked by: one of them forever a national heroine, the other forever a runner-up, and all by the discretionary flick of a judge's finger on an electric button.

What most depressed me, looking back, was not the dubious marking, but the blank, programmed look of the medal winners when they appeared behind the microphones, conditioned to cliché replies, seemingly unable to comprehend or respond to questions other than the obvious; looking forward to no more, as Svetlana Boguinskaya, the bronze medal winner, admitted, than coaching the next generation of automated geniuses.

Henderson moves

Oldham rugby league club have paid Leigh £50,000 for their centre, John Henderson. Henderson, who lives in Oldham, had rejected a new contract after seven seasons at Leigh.

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OLYMPICS REPORT

You've run (and jumped and swum and thrown) a long way, baby...

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALLSPORT/COLORSPORT

In this Olympic Games, women's athletics has come of age. Simon Barnes salutes the girls who have more than what it takes to win

It is Mary Decker's teeth I hate the most. She seems to have dedicated her life to the task of turning herself into an idealized fictional version of herself: Soap Opera Woman, Dallas Woman, Jogging Shoe Commercial Woman, Toothpaste Commercial Woman. The teeth get me every time.

American girls spend most of their teenage years with their teeth in braces. Ostensibly, this is because of the demands of tooth sculpting, but I believe the tooth brace has been encouraged by American fatherhood as the all-American chastity belt. The tooth brace is a last-ditch attempt to postpone the transformation of girl into woman, or of father into grandfather.

The end result — in a purely teeth sense — is the extraordinary vacuous look of the classic American beauty. The teeth become so large, so strong, so altogether horse-like, that the mouth seems unable to close properly over them. Standard American platitude now involves permanently parted lips that reveal teeth like piano keys. A full smile is like an invitation to play the Emperor Concerto. It is this — this groomed and sculptured facade — that makes me so nervous about Mary Decker. She seems to have been designed — custom-built — as the all-American, all-feminine female sporting ditty, with all that that might sell. This is something I find hard to trust.

6 The most monstrous regiment of female miracle workers that sport has ever produced 9

Regardless of what might happen here at the Seoul Olympics, Mary Decker was the face of the 1984 Games, the Los Angeles Festival of American Victory. A shame that Zola Budd's ad libbing spoiled her script. But no matter what she does this time around, she will be joined, if not eclipsed, by a great band of female athletes. These Games are bringing us the biggest, most monstrous regiment of female miracle workers that sport has ever produced.

I have a feeling that these Olympics could turn into a breakthrough for all women's events. In Los Angeles, we had more women's events than ever before. But then we lacked the women to contest them. There is no such lack this time around.

Let us not forget that this is the first proper Olympics since 1972. African, American-led and Russian-led boycotts have spoiled each subsequent Olympics. This time, we have the events, and we have the women: I am sure that these Games will be, to use an expression I have never really understood but which sounds right, a watershed for women's sport. I hope that means a good thing.

I have read that women's sport is a pale imitation of the real thing. If ever there was a counter-argument to such a ludicrous statement, it is to be found in another double-barrelled American, Florence Griffith Joyner.

With Mary Decker, I always feel uneasy about her double-game, her need to imply with every gesture that she's not just a great runner, she's one helluva gorgeous chick as well. Griffith Joyner does not fall into this category: she blows the whole category apart.

You might just remember her from the ranks of successful, glossy, black and comely American female athletes of 1984. By the standards of



The real stuff: left, sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner in her for-God's-sake-look-at-me suit. Centre, Mary Decker Slaney, teethered up and raring to smile. Right, Ingrid Kristiansen, 10,000-metre champion, hardy annual.

those Games, she was a kind of superior also-ran: but she was not happy about that. Even then, she was clearly a lady who could stand anything except anonymity. She was the sprinter who had to start on her knuckles because of her ludicrous nails.

They were two inches long, and lacquered in red, white and blue — a change from her usual nicely understated rhinestone encrustations. I do not believe that two-inch nails are a sign of vanity. Anyone who can grow — and live with — such a preposterous and crippling affliction must possess a degree of self-absorption that would be considered unusual even in a man. It takes a male bodybuilder, a male

marathon runner (a male writer?) to challenge her.

Griffith Joyner is especially enjoyable as a spectacle because her taste is so clearly theatrical, rather than merely glamorous. No one wishing to make an impression on glamour alone would try racing in a hooded speed-skating suit. That extraordinary pair of one-legged combinations so perilously spread about her as she took the women's 100 metres record into the next century (is that another watershed?) was not a go-faster suit, or a practical suit, or a glamorous suit. It was a simple, straightforward, for-God's-sake-look-at-me suit. It made everyone's week, and I hope she works a further

miracle here, even though she has to run in the more routine official dress of the American team: if sport cannot be ridiculous and wonderful, then there's little point to it. But, in the end, it is not the presentation that will count in Seoul. It is the doing of it that matters. The Olympics are all about the pursuit of excellence, along with competitiveness, achievement,

defiance of pain, teamwork, exuberance, the readiness to push back frontiers: all things that have been female qualities since the world began. It is just that they are not the qualities that have been most often celebrated. For it happens to be true that women are tougher than men. Physically, they can stand the cold better, they can take extremes of heat better,

their powers of endurance are far greater. They can tolerate more pain, and their balance is much better. True, men beat women at all events in track and field athletics, but as Craig Sharp, director of the human motor performance laboratory at Birmingham University, demonstrates, this is not because the events are too tough. It is because they are not tough enough.

The tougher they get, the more the gap closes. And at the preposterous end of unbelievable records and impossible challenges, women start to overtake men: in things like ultra-ultra distance swimming and trans-Himalayan running, men labour in the wake of women.

So I won't listen to anyone who would denigrate women's sport. I hope the Olympics turn out to be a giant leap forward for sports women-kind. If we seek giant leaps, then we have Sara Simeoni, the Italian high-jumper, to provide them. If we seek patriotic gold medal hopes, we have Liz McColgan and Ginny Leng. We have, injuries permitting, the two British javelin-throwers.

All in all, Seoul will provide the greatest festival of women's sport in the history of the world. To virtually all of this, I am happy to give the loudest possible cheer. But there are some sports, the flitting-with-the-judges kind of sports, the double-standard sports, the

sports that demand gorgeousness as well as talent, that provide a further extension of the Mary Decker Problem.

Women's gymnastics can be stunning and brilliant, but the flitting by numbers that is a *de rigueur* part of the floor exercise leaves a bit of a funny taste. The graceful writhing of rhythmic gymnastics — the sport with the ribbon-waving and hoop-twirling — is also hard to be comfortable with.

There is a cigarette commercial that says to women: "You've come a long way, baby." These Olympics will, I hope, be a grand celebration of that fact. But I wish it were not necessary to celebrate with synchronized swimming.



Stalwart: Sara Simeoni, Italian high-jumper. With a gold and two silvers in the bag, she retired in 1986. This year she's back



6 Men beat women in track and field athletics because the events are not tough enough 9

Slaney has a night she stum



was the Roman appearing from the front of the which had overtones of...

The Roman was Marked by a while Slaney was writing her celebrated Zola Budd's story was the winner of this time. Slaney's first heat, she had muscle memory...

The Roman was Paul Ivan, a grand prize and successful swimmer, 1,500 metres perfect program. Ivan was the best in the world, Yvonne M... and Slaney, a... than com...

The... helped Slaney... ceded the...

Timmerman to the chal

The frequency of... that there are few... surprises in my... ships. The three... the first day's three... won, but no... lower which brought... best and unattained... takes to become a...

Ulf Timmerman... prime example, which... the better, for his... shot, does not... attention in... to the running. Timmerman... one of the few shot... an athlete, compared... mountains of... who accompany...

The East Berlin... money-to-weight... discipline. He... record to 23.6... the year and... successive Olympic... today, was well... the title until... relative newcomer... Soviet team... the last round... metres.

A lesser man... crumbled. But... inner only in... last throw of... reached 22.7... top step of the... Roma Noz is... Timmerman's... still too much... women, and... Lin Martin had... more courage, she... staved with... then 38... metres.

FENCING

Mistake is costly for Llewellyn



One... cost... chance... the...

eyes fencing... finished fourth... slipped away... Cadomski, of... after having... chance. The... the last two... and 21st.

Llewellyn gained... over the... Martin, then... with Cadomski... Three left... up but over... break the... automatically... enough to... through Hugh... other British... Jean-Francois... Czech of Poland... the medal. G... won the bronze... won Debra (France)...

BASKETBALL

Simple for the big battalions

Seoul (Agencies) of their height... scored their fourth... the tournament by... China 100-57, while the... South Korea, winning... Eight players in... balanced... achieved double figures... the Soviets, after conceding... into eight-point lead. Korea... appearance in the round.

OLYMPICS REPORT

Slaney has to relive a nightmare as she stumbles again

Mary Slaney tripped, but kept her balance this time in the Olympic 3,000 metres. It was the Romanian vest disappearing down the track in front of her in yesterday's heats for tomorrow's final which had more ominous overtones of Los Angeles.

The Romanian last time was Marica Puica, who won while Slaney (then Decker) was writing at trackside, after her celebrated meeting with Zola Budd's bare feet. Puica was the unfortunate dropout this time, stopping just 200 metres from the finish of the first heat, a legacy of the calf muscle injury she got in July.

The Romanian this time was Paula Ivan, who won the grand prix and had such a successful season at 800 and 1,500 metres, which is a perfect preparation for 3,000. Ivan won the second, faster heat in 8min 43.10sec, with Yvonne Murray just behind, and Slaney a somewhat less than comfortable fourth qualifier.

The "incident" cannot have helped. Slaney had just conceded the early lead that she

had taken, and confirmed in similar circumstances to Los Angeles that a perennial front runner has problems in a pack, when she cut across Annette Sergeant, of France, had her heels clipped, and almost her wings.

The collective journalistic memory went into the same instant playback that Slaney detailed afterwards. "It was a little bit scary. It was like a flashback with Zola. I looked round just to see who did it, but all I saw was a blue vest."

It was better than seeing red, as she did in Los Angeles. But that was understandable. As a teenage phenomenon, like Budd, Slaney was omitted from the United States Olympic team in Montreal in 1976, as being too young.

When she was reaching the height of her powers, the boycott of 1980 robbed her of another chance of Olympic glory; and she became the ultimate fall-gal in Los Angeles. Accusations of a fall-out here would be too cruel.

She said after her heat: "A gold medal, any medal would mean a lot to me. I've worked my whole life for it, and it would be very special. The Olympics is something I've thought about since I was very

young. Now I'm happy to be here and healthy."

But winning is a different dimension altogether. And, although she was comfortably in the first six, who were automatic qualifiers, she lacked the aggression of previous years. Ivan and Murray, and the three Soviet runners, Elena Romashova, Tatjana Samoljenskaja, and Natalya Artemova, and Elly Van Halst, the other comfortable qualifier from the first heat (who also beat Slaney so convincingly last month), are all going to be close to the 8min 25-30sec which Slaney believes is necessary to win.

Eamonn Martin knows what is necessary to win the 10,000 metres: stay close to the leaders and then use his speed and strength on the last lap. He fulfilled the first part of the formula in qualifying yesterday, fifth in 28min 25.46sec, but he could have looked a little easier.

That is partly excusable, due to his inexperience in the event. The Olympic heats are not the best occasion on which to run your second ever 10,000 metres. But his debut in Oslo, in 27min 23.06sec, the fastest in the world this year, has built much expectation.

He was not reassured when he took the track for the second heat and promptly saw Steve Binns and Mike McLeod, winner of the silver medal last time, go out in the first. "I thought perhaps the conditions were worse than I'd imagined. That it was humid, but it wasn't. I expected at least Steve to qualify."

"I tried to run easy, which isn't easy. In a lot of ways, it was harder than Oslo. I thought it would be run in around 28.20. But a 10,000 metres isn't easy, no matter how slow it's run. I just concentrated on keeping within range of the qualifiers. There was a lot of pushing and somebody went down behind me. At least there won't be any inexperienced runners in the final."

The contenders in Monday's final will be the same quartet Martin beat in Oslo - Salvatore Antibo, Arturo Barrios, Hans-Jorg Kunze and Ibrahim Bouhail - and two of the three Kenyans, Kipkemboi Kinelei and Moses Tanui. As Martin says, all he has to do is stay in contention.

That is something Binns and McLeod failed to do. McLeod dropped out with two laps to go, he was so far behind. Binns was distraught with his thirteenth place in the first heat in 28min 52.88sec. He reckons he came down from altitude too late - a move which is all too frequent - and that when he recovers properly, he is "going to do something with it. I'm in the best form of my life."

Timmermann rises to the challenge

The frequency of international competition nowadays means that there are fewer and fewer surprises in major championships. The three favourites for the first day's Olympic golds all won, but not without late challenges which brought out their best and underlined what it takes to become a champion.

Ulf Timmermann was the prime example, which was all the better for his speciality, the shot, does not often get the attention it deserves in relation to the running. Timmermann is one of the few shot putters who has pretensions to looking like an athlete, compared to the mountain of muscle and flesh, who accompany him into the arena.

The East German has the best power-to-weight ratio in the discipline. He took the world record in 23.66 metres earlier in the year and, with three successive Olympic records yesterday, was well on his way to the title until Randy Barnes, a relative newcomer to the United States' team, overtook him in the last round, with 22.39 metres.

A lesser man would have crumbled. But Timmermann is lesser only in physique. With the best throw of the competition he reached 22.47 metres, and the top step of the podium.

Rosa Mota is about a quarter Timmermann's size. But she was still too much for the rest of the marathon women, although if Lisa Martin had had a little more courage, she might have stayed with Mota over longer than 38 kilometres. For, at the

end, Martin had pulled back over half of the advantage Mota had built up in the last four kilometres. But Mota deservedly added the Olympic to the European and world titles she already owns, with a time of 2hr 23min 40sec.

Angie Pain, again coming in as a reserve for Britain, again distinguished herself by finishing best in the team, and took almost five seconds off her personal record in the process. She was tenth in 2hr 30min 51sec.

Ian McCubbin set a British record in the 20 kilometre walk, with 1hr 22min 03sec to claim a thirteenth place. Josef Prihlicek rebutted the challenge of Ronald Weigel to win by three seconds, virtually a photo-finish in this event.

The athletics, showpiece of the Games, did not have the impact which might have been hoped.

There were an inordinate number of British disasters in the heats. In addition to John Regis and Barrington Williams in the 100 metres, and Steve Binns and Mike McLeod in the 10,000 metres, eight other Britons failed to progress.

John Herbert, Vernon Samuels and Jonathan Edwards failed to qualify for the final of the triple jump, as did Paul Edwards in the shot. Jill Hunter was nowhere near qualifying for the 3,000 metres. Mark Robertson and Phil Harris were eliminated in the first round of the 400 metres hurdles, as was Pat Beckett in the women's flat race.



Treble triumph: Rosa Mota, Olympic as well as world and European marathon champion

Jackson carries lightweight threat to Kingdom's crown

If there is one thing that counts against Colin Jackson at the moment, it is that he is only 5ft 11in and 115lb. The height is not such a disadvantage, although he is hardly likely to grow any more at the age of 21, and anyway, Renato Nehemiah, the greatest hurdler ever, is the same height. But it is the weight that matters.

For the high hurdles is becoming a race of giants. And Jackson is probably a year behind Roger Kingdom in the practice of throwing weights to improve performance. That year in the weights room is probably worth a metre on the track.

There is probably nobody better placed here to assess Jackson's (and Kingdom's) chances of success in the high hurdles, which begin tomorrow, than Gid Foster, another giant who did not have feet of clay when he failed to qualify in the United States Olympic trials, but an arm in plaster.

Foster, the world champion, is a couple of inches taller, and several pounds heavier, than Kingdom, who already has that same advantage over Jackson. He broke his left, leading arm in a training accident three weeks before the trials.

The high hurdles is already a race in which the practitioner courts disaster in the manner of

a tightrope walker. As Nehemiah has said: "You're so finely balanced at high speed going over those barriers. It would only need someone to whisper in your ear to tip you over."

Foster went into the trials with a plaster cast and could not get past the semi-finals for a chance to win the gold that Kingdom watched from him at the Los Angeles Olympics.

But Foster, here in Seoul to commentate for television, is philosophical, and ready to dispense his expertise. "It's kinda hard not to pick Roger to win. It's a one-man race for gold and a two or three-man race for silver, between Colin, Tonia (Campbell) and Mark (McGoy)."

Roger's got a lot of upper-body strength, that's the main reason he's got it all the time. He hits so many hurdles, and still wins. Power has overcome technique. Tonia's the only one who doesn't get away from technique. Mark's definitely may be too small. But Colin's an aggressive hurdler. He really attacks the hurdles."

If that is an advantage that Jackson enjoys in the race for silver (and he does not admit that it is only for silver), the other is his championship attitude, diffused by Malcolm Arnold, his coach.

"One of Colin's major strengths is that he's outstanding in competition." Although that last part isn't fairly clear from 1986, when he won his world junior title. It was no better illustrated than in the world championships last year, when, having been injured for most of the season, Jackson managed to get a bronze medal.

Jon Edipson, the colleague whom Jackson has succeeded in world prominence through junior ranks, took the silver last year behind Foster. But a virus has eliminated him from serious contention.

Yet he remains as confident as Jackson that he can make his mark on the Olympic final. And Tony Jarrett, the third Briton, who followed Edipson to European junior gold last year, will probably bolster the British take-over bid of the 110 metres barriers; and get to the last eight as well.

But it is difficult to see anyone beating Kingdom. He is well aware of his built-at-the-gate tactics, but well justified in using them. "The main thing is to get over the hurdles as quickly as possible, so you can do your fast running between them. But if there should be a whisper of doubt in his ear, it is most likely to be Colin Jackson's voice."

Childerley takes lead following Spaniard's demise

From Barry Pickthall, Pusan

British sailors continued to close in on the medals as the Olympic regatta pressed the half-way stage yesterday. A masterful performance by Stuart Childerley, coupled with the disqualification of Thursday's winner, José Doreste, the Spaniard, raised the British Finn sailor to first overall in his class, while Lawrie Smith and his two-man crew moved up to within a whisker of third place in the Soling after finishing third yesterday.

Mike McIntyre and Brynne Vaile maintained second place in the Star class, but their seventh place in yesterday's race has allowed the West German favourite, Alex Hagan, to draw level on points.

The French again dominated the Tornado class, but Rob White and Jeremy Newman recovered from a poor start to finish sixth. The British pair lie eighth overall. 21 points behind the third-placed Brazilians, and know that they have to pull out all the stops during the three races that remain if that bronze medal is to be theirs.

After their disaster on Thursday, Roger Yeoman and Neal McDonald returned to some semblance of form with a sixth placing yesterday, but, in fourteenth overall, have left it too late to stage a comeback.

This race was won in devastating style by Yael Seia and

Eldad Amir, of Israel, who were forced by team orders to withdraw from Wednesday's heat in order to celebrate Yom Kippur - a religious sacrifice that has dropped them to seventh in the overall standings. They stand 34 points behind the fleet leaders, Bojsen-Moller and Gronberg, the world champions from Denmark.

The 10 to 12-knot patchy winds were also to the benefit of the Torton brothers. Seia's compatriots, competing in the 470 class, who did sail on Wednesday and then retired under threat of being sent home. They finished third yesterday behind the Tyniste brothers from the Soviet Union, and Cochrane and McQuilham, from Canada.

Peppinnet and Pilot, the 470 fleet leaders, shared a bad day with the British, but despite dropping to tenth, still hold a 12-point lead overall. A second place helped Allison Jolly and Lynne Jewell, the United States crew, strengthen their hold in the women's 470 class on a day when their leading rivals, Sweden's Soderstrom and Bengtsson, took a dive to fifteenth. In contrast, the British crew, Debbie Jarvis and Sue Hay, finished sixth, but after poor results earlier in the week stand at fifteenth overall.

Bruce Kendall, the New Zealander, continued to lead the sailboard class after taking fifth place yesterday; Simon Goody, of Britain, is in thirteenth place overall.

Canadian pair gets small joy

Kim Bonner and Alison Thomas, from Surrey, came second in the small final of the coxless pairs yesterday when they recorded a time of 8min 15.2sec behind Canada who finished in 8:09.1.

Alison Gill and Sally Andrae, who were late selections for the double sculls, were third in their small final, with a time of 8:15.70, behind Canada and Sweden.

Pertti Karppinen, of Finland, salvaged something from his otherwise disappointing trip to Seoul by winning his race in the consolation finals. It placed him seventh in the competition overall.

Karppinen, aged 35, was eliminated from medal consideration on Thursday when he finished last in his heat of the semi-finals. He won the Olympic single sculls gold medals at Montreal in 1976, Moscow in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1984.

Karppinen rowed past Yuri Yanson, of the Soviet Union, in the last 50 metres to win the consolation final by half a second. His time, 7:34.37, was considerably slower than that set by Thomas Lange, of East Germany, in the heats, and his own repurchase time of 7:44.91.

Karppinen said that rowing this year had been more difficult for him this year but added that he would continue to train for the world championships and the next Olympics if he can "regain the gladness" of sculling.

Alexander beaten by Soviet

Eddie Alexander's chase for the Olympic sprint cycling title ended in Seoul yesterday.

Alexander, aged 24, from Gloucester, went down 2-0 to the Soviet champion, Nikolai Kovche, in the semi-final.

Both races ended in close finishes, with Kovche clocking 11.07 seconds and 11.90 seconds for the last 200 metres to edge out Alexander. In the final Kovche will meet Lutz Heeslich, of East Germany, who beat the Australian, Gary Newland, Alexander and Newland met to decide the bronze medal today.

The world record was broken twice during the men's 4,000 pursuit team competition in which the British quartet, Chris Boardman, Bob Coull, Simon Lillistone and Glen Sward, finished thirteenth.

First, the Australian team clocked 4min 16.32sec to improve the time of 4:17.71 set by Czechoslovakia in the 1986 world championships. But then the Soviet Union team, comprised of Vyacheslav Yekimov, Arturas Kasputis, Dmitry Nelubine and Gintautas Umaras, broke the Australian time with 4:16.10, riding last in the qualifying round.

The East German cyclist, Christa Luding, who won gold and silver speed skating medals at the Calgary Games in February, secured a place in Olympic history when she qualified for the final of the women's sprint.

Mistake is costly for Llewellyn

One spell of lost concentration cost John Llewellyn the chance of reaching the last 32 in the individual epee fencing yesterday. The reigning cabinetmaker, aged 30, finished fourth in the pool, and slipped away against Witold Gadomski, of Poland.

"I'm bitterly disappointed after having such a great chance," said Llewellyn, who at the two Olympics was 24th and 21st.

Llewellyn gained a 3-3 win over the Brazilian, Antonio Machado. Then came the battle with Gadomski, ranked sixth. Three deft strikes put him 3-0 up but once the Pole got the break the match turned dramatically and a 4-4 draw was, not enough to see Llewellyn through. Hugh Kernohan, the other British epeeist, was 51st.

Jean-Francois Lamour, of France, outpointed Janusz Olech, of Poland, 10-4 to win the men's individual sabre gold medal. Gervasio Scatzo (Italy) won the bronze, beating Philippe Delrieu (France), 10-2.

BASKETBALL

Simple for the big battalions

Seoul (Agencies) - The United States, making full use of their height advantage, scored their fourth victory of the tournament by trouncing China 108-57, while the Soviet Union had no problems with South Korea, winning 110-71.

Eight players in the well-balanced American team achieved double figures while the Soviets, after conceding an early eight-point lead, kicked into overdrive to ensure their appearance in the medal round.

Whitaker enters the picture

From Jenny MacArthur

Joe Turi and Kruger, contenders for the fourth position in the British show jumping team, were picked ahead of Whitaker when the squad was announced yesterday. Whitaker, who was picked ahead of Turi, was picked ahead of Kruger, who was picked ahead of Whitaker.

The competition, contested by 102 riders, was designed as a warm-up class before Wednesday's Olympic team showjumping event. It gave the British team manager, Ronnie Massarella, his first chance to assess form since the horses went into quarantine in the middle of August.

Turi, who is competing with Michael Whitaker and Amanda for the fourth place, shrugged off his bad round saying: "I'm not worried. It was me, not the horse. I'm a little rusty, having not jumped since Dublin."

clear rounds, the latter pair jumping particularly cleanly. The going in the main arena was firm, as expected, but improved after being harrowed half-way through the competition.

Mark Todd, who on Thursday won his second successive individual gold medal in the three-day event, was back in the saddle yesterday riding Bago in the New Zealand team. 1-odd, the first rider to compete in both the three-day event and show jumping competitions since the Canadian, James Day, in 1976, collected 17 faults and admitted to being somewhat jaded after a wild celebratory party, which lasted most of the night.

Tomorrow evening Massarella has to name four riders for Monday's first qualifying round for the individual showjumping competition. It does not have to be the same four who are in the team, which means that all five riders here could get the chance to compete.

VOLLEYBALL

Peruvians break down the Chinese wall

Seoul (Reuters) - Peru scored an upset 3-2 win over China, the women's world and Olympic champions, in a preliminary round match here yesterday.

China led 14-9 in the fifth, decisive set and looked assured of winning the match when the Peruvians surged back with a series of superb spikes to force deuce.

The South Americans pierced China's defensive wall - reputed the best in the world - and Gabriela Perez, their outstanding player, dummied repeatedly, allowing her team to smash to a 16-14 win.

China, who began their defence of the Olympic title with a

SHOOTING

Golden end to Kouzmine's 19-year dream

Seoul (Reuters) - Afanasi Kouzmine turned a 19-year-old dream to reality by winning the rapid fire pistol gold medal here yesterday. The Soviet, aged 41, scored 698 to beat Ralf Schumann, of East Germany, by two points. Zoltan Kovacs, of Hungary, took the bronze with 693.

"I have a dream of winning the gold medal when I was 22," Kouzmine said. "It kept me in the sport." This was his third Olympics.

To Heistad, of Norway, won the running game target. He scored 689 points, beating China's Huang Shiping and Gennadi Avramenko (USSR).

Police investigate post-bout brawl

From John Goodbody

Police yesterday began an investigation into the brawl in the Olympic boxing ring between two Korean officials and the head security guard attacked the referee from New Zealand after a home boxer lost a decision to a Bulgarian.

The incident also caused Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, to make an unscheduled 45-minute visit to the arena to discuss arrangements. It has also thrown into further doubt the future of the sport in the games.

Many members of the IOC, including Samaranch, the coach and Lee Hong So, the coach, and Kim Sung Eun, the team manager, climbed into the ring and began punching and kicking Walker. They were joined by a security officer and other officials. Bottles and also chairs were thrown as the police moved in. Later the Korean boxer staged a 67-minute sit-in before leaving the ring. The International Amateur Boxing Association suspended the boxer, five officials and also the referee for "certain lapses".



ELLIOTT'S UNLUCKY BLOW

Mark Elliott, of Britain, was eliminated from the lightweight competition yesterday after taking a blow in the eye from Ludovic Proto, of France. The punch, which came within a minute of the first round, was the only one thrown by Proto.

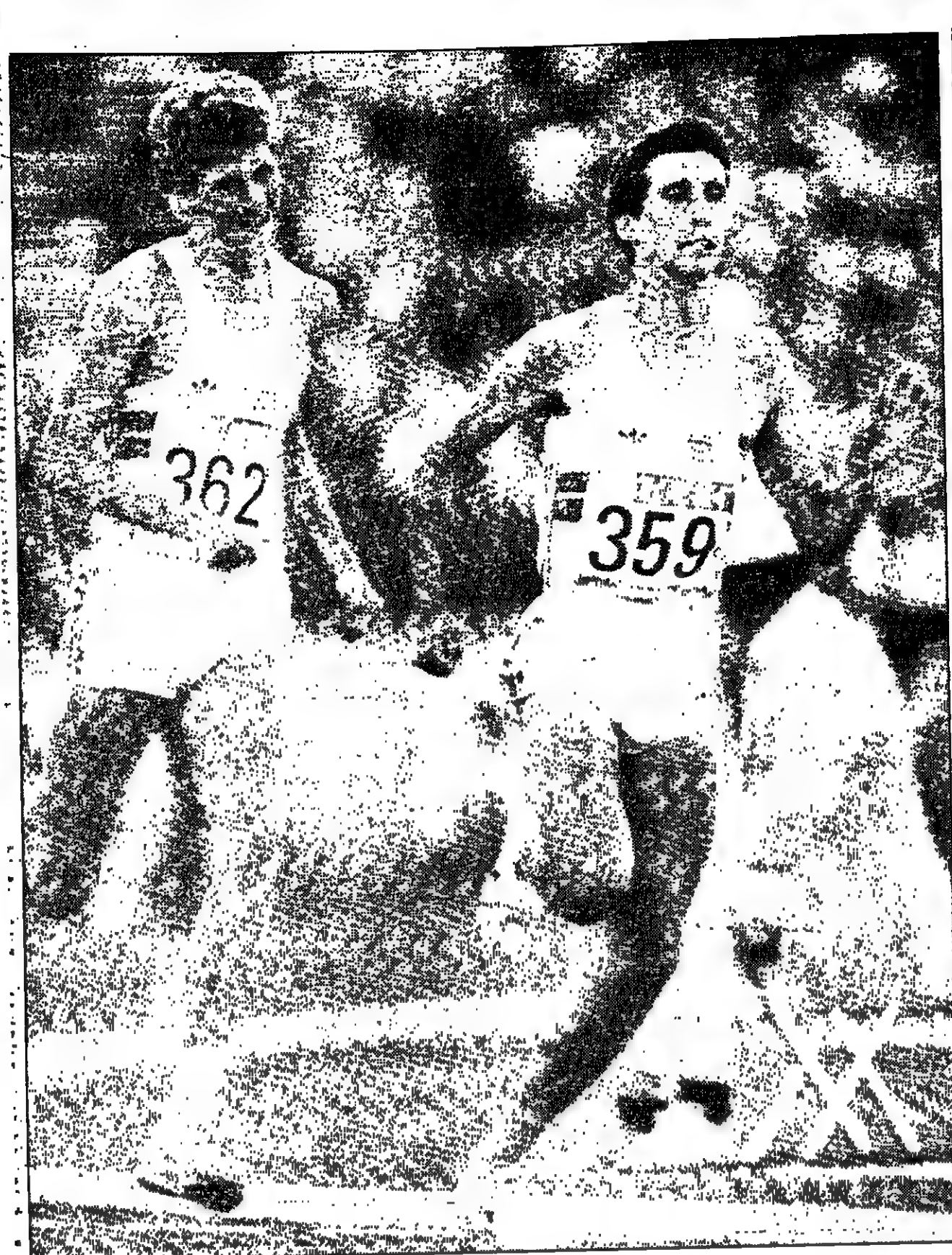
"It went straight into my eye," Elliott said. "I lost vision straight away and felt a bump come up." He was led to the ringside doctor, who signalled that the contest was over.

A surprising result elsewhere in the competition has improved the medal prospects of Charlie Kane, of Scotland, in the lightweight division. Kane, aged 20, reached the last 16 with a

Oh well,
YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

The 1500 metres final, 1984.



Power and the glory: Coe kicks for home off the final bend with Cram unable to respond; then scowls at those who had suggested he was finished

One man hoping not to make an ass of himself was Steve Cram. The last few weeks of his preparation in Los Angeles had been a succession of problems, and he became convinced that it was worth his getting on the plane only after he had run a private time trial, among club colleagues in the north east, in a respectable 3min 39.8sec.

Among those he had beaten were the experienced Rob Harrison and young Billy, and, for the first time in several races, he had finished without discomfort. The tendon and ankle were mending. As Jimmy Hedley, his coach, said, there was no reason why, with the sun on his back and the stimulation of big crowds, he should not be able to produce the sort of times which would add the Olympic title to his European, Commonwealth and world gold medals.

The prospects in the last few days for the 1,500 metres had been clarified by the decision of Said Aouita, no doubt with the same reasoning by John Walker, to go for the 5,000 metres. The speculation now centred on whether Joaquim Cruz and Seb Coe could maintain their effort with only two days rest following the 800 metres; whether Cram was fully fit; and whether Steve Ovett would accept the diagnosis of American doctors that he was not too unwell to run, and would go against the advice of his own team managers, of his wife and the British doctors, who all said it was inadvisable. And, of course, the Americans were busy talking about Steve Scott and Jim Spivey.

The day after Cruz's 800 metres gold medal, Cram gave a Press conference. The tall, slim George, the most unassuming of world champions, said that he did not think he would need to be in shape to run a world record in Saturday's final, "but I'll have to be able to run a very fast last lap". He admitted he would not know until he stepped off the track after Thursday's first round just how much the injuries of the previous seven weeks had taken out of him, and he admitted, too, the arrival of an exceptional new opponent... Cruz.

Always a realist, Cram tried to keep the Olympics in perspective, not to accept that his entire career might be judged on his performance here, irrespective of his other accomplishments. "You've got to try to treat the Olympics like any other race, not let it seem bigger. You don't want to be frightened; of course you must be emotionally up for it, but I'll probably race the same guys in Zurich the next week. If I get beaten, I won't lie down and accept that the guy who won is No. 1."

In the days leading up to the 1,500 metres, Steve Scott, from

Arizona, for so long in the shadow of one or other of Britain's string of outstanding runners, was permitting himself more optimism than was perhaps discreet, considering that he had had anything but an outstanding year, so far, and was only twelfth on the ranking list. None could deny that Scott, aged 28, had for a long time been a formidable competitor. Quite apart from his silver behind Cram in Helsinki, and his mile defeat of an ailing Coe last year, in 1982 he had run a mile in Oslo in 3min 47.69sec, not much more than a stride outside Coe's world record of the previous summer.

Discussing the prospects now, he had been somewhat disparaging about the British, saying that the rest of the world had caught up with British runners. "Hardly anyone is thinking about Coe and Ovett any more. They're just faces in the crowd. Any one of eight finalists could win the 1,500." Scott had said after running a modest 800 metres just before the Games began.

Scott is a nice man, and it is difficult to take offence at any opinion he might express, because it would be sincere. It had been Scott from whom Coe ran away 500 metres from the finish when he first broke the mile record in 1979. For the first time Scott had the British on home ground; would he be able to exploit it? He had been defeated often enough by Coe, Cram and Ovett, so this was his moment.

There was little exceptional about round one, other than the appearance of Ovett and the sharp form again shown by Cruz. The British team management had spent some hours trying to get in touch with Ovett after his release from hospital the previous morning, because it seems they were not sure where he and his wife were staying.

The LA organizing committee's chief medical officer for athletics, Dr Richard Greenspan, and Dr Steven Simons, pulmonary specialist at the LA orthopaedic hospital, had given a Press conference at which they had outlined the recent history of Ovett's problems: bronchitis accompanied by wheezing at the time of the UK trials, then chest pains and breathlessness three weeks later; the development of numbness and tingling in the finger tips and hyperventilation during and on completion of four days of the 800 metres; following which he had been given extensive heart and physiological tests.

Dr Simons had said that they had advised Ovett he could run if he wanted to; that he had no medical injury as such, but that they could not say what would be his level of performance in the 1,500 metres, and that there could be a breakthrough of the symptoms again at peak level. But here Ovett was.

The first heat was notable for

The Los Angeles 1,500 metres was one of the great Olympic finals. All three Britons, Coe, Cram and Ovett, were in the field. David Miller and Sebastian Coe himself recall how Coe became the first man to retain the title

the fact that Anthony Rogers of New Zealand, who would go on to reach the final, qualified only in fourth place as one of the six fastest losers, behind Joseph Cheshire, Omar Khalifa and Sierano Mel of Italy, while José-Luis Gonzalez, of Spain, a potential medal winner, was eliminated in fifth place.

Coe was in heat two, in which a group of seven ran together for much of the race up to 800 metres, in slowish time. Then Jamaa Aden, of Somalia, Coe, Paul Donovan, of Ireland, and Pascal Thiébaull, of France, moved away, Coe taking the lead 100 metres out, easing, and being passed by Thiébaull at the line, just ahead of Andres Vera, of Spain, who would also go on to reach the final.

Ovett won the third, heat in a singularly slow time and the pity here was that Pierre Delcay, a potential medal winner, who was coming through for a comfortable qualifying place, caught one of Ovett's heels seven yards from the line, tripped, fell headlong and did not finish. Ovett revealed afterwards that his wife, Rachel, had not wanted him to race.

"It was a matter of pride. I don't think I could have left the Olympics running as badly as I did in the 800 metres. I had to go back and run a bit better. I knew there was something seriously wrong when I hit the bell. It was as though someone had pulled out the power plug. I remember thinking 'don't drop out'. I was very unsteady and light-headed, and when the race finished I was thinking 'don't faint on the track'. When I got into the tunnel going out, it was very hot and claustrophobic, and that was the last I saw of the world until I woke up in hospital."

Cruz and Scott dominated heat four, breaking away from the leading group after three laps, and Cruz covered the last 400 metres in 53.7sec. Mike Hillardt qualified, with a late run on the final straight. The men with class, José Abascal, Peter Wirz and Uwe Becker, ran away from the pack on the last lap to take the places in heat five, while Cram and Spivey had the finishing touch to pull away over the final bend of heat six, hotly pursued by Peter O'Donoghue in third place.

The surprise of the semi-finals was Cruz's failure to come to the line in the second heat. He had been scratched earlier in the day

by Oliveira, his coach, for reasons which were a question of some dispute both inside and outside the Brazilian camp. Some Brazilian journalists were convinced that Oliveira, who is the stronger of the two personalities, was protecting a priceless reputation just achieved in the 800 metres, with the excuse of a cold which might have helped Cruz to be beaten in either of the two remaining races. The Brazilian team doctor had seen Cruz and said that he was fit to run, but Oliveira denied this.

The first semi-final was potentially the more severe, with 10 of the 12 starters all serious candidates to reach the final and only the first four of each race and the next four fastest qualifying. Off the final bend Coe was going sweetly in second place behind Abascal with a group including Scott fighting it out just behind him. Over the last 50 metres Coe eased, carefully glancing each way over either shoulder behind him, as Scott moved through to take second place.

Somewhat, Coe failed to notice that both Cheshire and Wirz were accelerating towards him as he slowed, about to pass him on each side. He made a lunge at the tape to beat them both by two-hundredths of a second. Yet had he been fifth instead of third — and another meter might have allowed them to get by before he could fully react — he could have been eliminated had his not been the faster heat.

In the stands, Peter Coe was shaking like a leaf as he helplessly watched this moment's aberration, and Seb would afterwards admit that he stood rigid with anxiety while he looked up at the huge television screen to watch the re-run. In fact, the first seven from this heat went through.

Against all expectation, and some would say wisdom, the courageous Ovett now lined up with Cram and the rest in a bid to reach his third Olympic 1,500

metres final. On the final bend, Cram kicked to take the lead and Ovett was still there three or four yards behind, giving it everything he had; coming into the home straight Ovett was second, but would drift to fourth at the line by two-hundredths of a second behind Spivey and Vera. Khalifa got the last of the 12 qualifying places just behind Ovett, who was again in distress at the finish and had to be helped to the medical centre. Predictably, he was weary and stressed and would be unable to say until the following morning if he could take up his place in the final.

I drove back to UCLA with Coe. He was in an unusual mood, calmer than I had ever seen him before, and I have been with him when he has fallen asleep in the passenger seat on the way to an Amateur Athletic Association final. It was almost as if he was going off on holiday, rather than running in an Olympic final which was the climax of a year of superhuman effort and determination to rescue a reputation, which he at least believed still had credibility.

He and Peter were at ease. As he would say later, their agreed separation had given him all the input of Moscow, and none of the peripheral aggravation. "Peter's major asset to me in coaching," he said, "has always been that while he's close, he's been incredibly analytical, especially in his construction of the training programme. I didn't want to dissipate this in LA. He was able to watch every race, in the stadium, without having to be with me and all the problems of co-ordinating our meeting points and travel. I could discuss with him on the phone next morning his analysis of how other runners had reacted, how their faces had looked at the finish, providing me with the information I couldn't get because I was not allowed to stay beside the track."

Like Ovett and Coe, Cram also knew about Olympic finals. He had been there as a 19-year-old, almost as an observer, as it were, for the second duel between his compatriots four years before. Maybe it was some of those recollections which were getting through to him now. On the afternoon of the final in LA, for which he was widely regarded as the favourite even by Americans, he went to his room to try to get some rest, but was down again after only a quarter of an hour, and spent some while lazing in the sun, which is not the best preparation

for three and a half minutes of physical ordeal a few hours later.

Coe's memories of the day of the final are quite clear: "I felt very good all day. With each race, including the 800s, I'd arrived at the stadium each time with more self-control. By the time I got to the final of the 1,500 metres, I was a bit worried that if anything I was too relaxed. This was one of the benefits of having sorted things out on my own. In LA, Peter and I had got back to sharing problems instead of doubling them. I remember your having mentioned Peter's comment in Moscow, that he'd 'give an arm and a leg' for me to win the next day. One doesn't need that. Now, I was coming out with fewer nerves and more concentration."

The western end of the stadium was already in shadow as the 12 runners lined up. The improvement of Khalifa over the past couple of years or so was about to be demonstrated. It was no brash moment, an extrovert seeking the limelight for a glorious last lap, which quickly took him to the front with Cheshire, ahead of Ricardo Materazzi and Coe. The smiling Sudanese was out there with real intent, leading after 400 metres in 58.9sec.

Down the back straight for the second time Ovett lost ground and so, momentarily, did Scott before he accelerated past four men to go ahead of Coe (lying third), then jumped the front two to take the lead. It was the most unexpected of developments, but it was something Scott had planned a long while. As Len Miller, his coach, said later: "For over a year we had thought about Steve making it a fast race." After 700 metres, with two laps to go, the order was: Scott, Coe, Khalifa and Abascal, Cram, Ovett, Cheshire. Scott maintained his lead to the 800 metres mark in 1:56.8, a tenth of a second ahead of Coe, with Abascal a further two yards down.

If it had been Straub in Moscow whose courage had given the third and fourth laps of the final their scorching pace and had drained the kick out of Ovett, it was now Scott and then Abascal who on the second and third laps extended everyone but Coe. Coming into the straight towards the bell, Abascal and Coe had gone past Scott, and Cram, Ovett and Spivey were following; Scott had shot his bolt. At the bell, Abascal (2:39.3), who was a further two and a half yards ahead of Cram; Ovett was fourth and Scott was disappearing behind Spivey.

Sadly, Ovett's fortune would end mid-way round the next bend. In his present condition, the pace was far beyond him and his chest pains were returning. Away went the rest towards the crescendo of the race, though now there were only three in the fight for the

medals, as the dark-haired Spaniard led Coe and Cram down the back straight. Ovett had run off the track.

Approaching the final bend, Cram gritted his teeth and drew alongside Coe and for a stride they were together shoulder to shoulder. But with a half-glance up into his rival's face as he came abreast, Coe kicked and went wide of Abascal, followed by Cram. On the crown of the bend, Coe gave a glance behind both ways, but there was only the one man with a chance of challenging him.

Entering the home straight, Coe had a lead of one and a half to two metres; and now he gave his third kick. It could not have hit Cram harder. As Coe accelerated away, poised and balanced and with his drive still as geometric as a steam engine's pistons, Cram's head was beginning to roll and his face, twisted as he tried to respond, in the next 40 metres, Coe had opened a full six metres on Cram, which he held to cross the line with an ecstatic smile and an Olympic record of 3:32.53. Brave Abascal had the bronze as his reward behind Cram.

Within seconds of victory, Coe's mood transformed from pleasure to a picture almost of anger. Turning towards the Press and television ranks on his right, he looked up and with a scowl shouted out almost involuntarily: "Who says I'm finished!" It was a long and lingering gesture. It was triumph over adversity. Yet it was also the inner reaction, bubbling once more to the surface, of the schoolboy of long ago who could not accept it when he was bowled out at cricket, who got nervous eczema in the tension of his 11-plus examinations, who had now proved to the whole world that he was not the failure some had said him to be? The contemplation of success or failure can be equally motivating.

As Coe dissolved from his half-minute of specific aggression and ran off on his lap of honour, collecting a Union Jack on the way, his euphoria obscured from him the sight of Ovett still sitting on the ground, his arms and fingers bent in discomfort around his knees, his eyes glazed, while anxious medics wiped his brow and gently eased him on to a stretcher. With feeling, Coe said later: "I was sorry for Steve, and sorry I didn't notice him there. It was brave of him to step out again after all he had been through in the 800."

If Cram was regretful at his failure to add the most prized title of all to his collection, it did not prevent him paying the most dignified of tributes to the winner. "I'm satisfied. I enjoyed the race. I couldn't have done anything else. Seb was brilliant."

Adapted from Sebastian Coe, *Coming Back*, published in 1985 by Sidwick and Jackson.

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From Sidwick and Jackson

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Jack Waterman sets the scene on next week's Highflyer Sales at Newmarket

Shop window for bargain hunters

Dress apart, there would seem to be only the most tenuous link between the Knightsbridge queues who storm the sales counters every January, and the men and women in anoraks, dog-tooth caps, headscarves and technical dreamcoats who will crowd the circular tiers of Park Paddocks, Newmarket, next week.

On Tuesday, the Tattersalls Highflyer Sales, the most important annual auction of yearlings in Europe, are due to begin.

However, there is a further important common factor: dreams which are as multi-coloured as the above-mentioned coats. In Knightsbridge, they can be about half-price dinner services made of Crown Derby. At Newmarket, the collective dream concerns quite another form of Derby: nothing less than buying a future winner of the great Epsom classic itself.

Furthermore, Park Paddocks will certainly not be without those whose sole purpose is hunting a bargain among the 389 choice lots on offer.

It might be argued that with a record average sale price of 96,710 guineas realized at last year's Highflyer Sales, the word "bargain" is a somewhat relative term.

Nonetheless, it is possible, if the figure of 780,000 guineas is kept in firm perspective. This, topping the 1987 sale, was paid for the last yearling to be offered for sale sired by the illustrious stallion, Mill Reef, now deceased.

Even this was nowhere near the record top-priced Highflyer lot in the heady days of 1983 - £1.55 million guineas.

So, the remarks of the chairman of Tattersalls, Michael Watt, demand attention: "I have noticed that, in the past, a number of smaller trainers have not come to the Highflyer Sales, no doubt because of the high prices paid for yearlings. They might not realize that shrewd judges have picked up some notable bargains."

He follows this with a list of lower-priced Highflyer purchases in the recent past, and concludes: "You do not have to be a millionaire to get value for money."



Close inspection as another yearling is led round before coming under the auctioneer's hammer at the Highflyer Sales

That contention is certainly supported by his list. It includes that top class sprinter of 1986, Double Schwartz. He cost 13,000 guineas and recouped 10 times that figure for Robert Sangster in a string of group successes.

Then, at Royal Ascot this year, Persian Heights (25,000 guineas) more than handily repaid his purchase price by winning the St James's Palace Stakes, and

Glorietta (20,000) did likewise by winning the Queen Mary Stakes.

Such examples will be somewhere in the consciousness of next week's bidders, but their money English, Irish, American, Arabic or Japanese, be they agents representing multi-millionaires or (more particularly) trainers with a budget as limited as a lunging rein.

The first lot number will

flash up, the first yearling will be led in and the Tattersalls auctioneers will begin their varying incantations. These

comprise Michael Watt himself, the Irishman David Pim, who shook up sales ring tradition when he first appeared and became a star turn, the young Edmond Mahoney, Richard Midway-White and Sir Peter Nugent, a very positive auctioneer.

The incantations are likely to run on these lines: "Who's got a hundred for her, she'll make it, good gracious me, I thought there'd be a show of hands... 100 thank you and five in the gate... Habitat filly, look at her, she's an athlete, 110 on the rail and 15 in the gate, and 20... fresh bidder..."

And so it goes on, ever upwards, developing a crescendo if two rival bidders emerge to fight it out, with the auctioneer, like the man with the drum in a Roman galley, relentlessly beating out the message to the carmen to keep it at it, till they drop, or, bids exhausted. Then there is a final look round and, rap, down comes the hammer.

So it can be done, and dreams can come true, as they came true 35 years ago for the late Sir Victor Sassoon after he had paid 1,500 guineas for Pinza at a Newmarket yearlings sale.

He once told me, even before Pinza had won the Coronation year Derby: "He was really a make-weight in the sale, but after all the goings I've bought, I now truly have a swan."

There are four colts and a filly by Northern Dancer's son, the Triple Crown winner, Nijinsky. There is a half-sister by Caerleon to the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and dual Eclipse winner, Mitote. Also a half-brother, by Law Society, to the Derby and Irish Derby winner, Shirley Heights.

Among these and the other lots, will there be a Derby winner? The chances, on the showing of the past decade, are odds against. Of the last 10 Derby winners, seven were home-bred and three bought just such a swan.

Origin of Highflyer

The Highflyer Sales are named after the unbeaten colt of that name on whom, as a stallion, two centuries ago, the original fortunes of the firm of Tattersalls are founded.

Highflyer, a son of Herod, whose great rival at stud was Eclipse, was owned by Richard Tattersall, founder of the firm. Highflyer sired eight classic winners including the 1787 Derby winner, Sir Peter Teasdale, whose progeny were responsible for carrying on the Highflyer line.

Tattersall was said to have earned £15,000 a year through this one stallion, and his own account of the sale of the colt, which he sold for 100 guineas, was paid eloquent testimony in the horse's epitaph: "Here lies the perfect and beautiful symmetry of the much lamented Highflyer by whom and his wonderful offspring the celebrated Tattersall acquired a noble fortune but was not ashamed to acknowledge it..."

Today, the Highflyer male line is sadly extinct, and Eclipse has proved predominant.

Eurobird for Leger double

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

With more rain forecast at the Curragh, the gamble of Gordon Jennings in keeping last year's Jefferson Smurfit Memorial St Leger winner, Eurobird, in training as a four-year-old could pay off this afternoon with a repeat win in the last of the Irish classics.

Eurobird has only raced twice this season, but she showed clearly that she was recovering her best form last time out when failing by only a neck to give 16lb to the improved three-year-old Heavenly Manna.

Flop of the race last year was the 6-4 favourite, Moon Madness, who was the first horse beaten, trailing in second last. That failure was attributed to the very soft ground and while conditions should certainly be more suitable this time it is hard to escape the feeling that the 1986 Doncaster St Leger winner has shed much of this zest for racing.

He was tailed off in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot and finished fifth of six to Top Class at Newbury last time out.

Linking up with this year's high quality English St Leger, we have Michael Stoute saddling Zaffaran, who finished fourth behind Minister Son. Prior to that Zaffaran had completed a treble including the March Stakes at Goodwood, but a 17-length gap from the St Leger winner, Minister Son, would surely leave him with some ground to find here.

John Reid found it hard to choose between Kris Kringle

and Dark Lomond, but eventually elected for the former, who has not been seen since finishing eighth in the French Derby. On a line of form through Malsod, he looks to be held by Zaffaran.

Heavenly Manna could be the best long-shot in the race but a win for Eurobird looks the most logical suggestion to this race, which has attracted its largest field since becoming a sponsored event.

CURRAGH LINE-UP

Probable going: good to yielding. Draw: no advantage.

3:35 JEFFERSON SMURFIT MEMORIAL IRISH ST Leger (Group 1, £105,000; 1m 6f) (14 runners)

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|----|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 11 | MINISTER SON (J. P. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 2 | EUROBIRD (G. Jennings) 4-4-8 | 12 | TOP CLASS (J. P. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 3 | MOON MADNESS (L. Williams) 4-4-8 | 13 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 4 | WATERFORD (J. P. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 14 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 5 | CLIFTON GRANGE (C. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 15 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 6 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 16 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 7 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 17 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 8 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 18 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 9 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 19 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |
| 10 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 | 20 | HEAVENLY MANNA (A. J. O'Brien) 4-4-8 |

Form guide to the 14 contenders

Waterford means the first day of the Ascot meeting to partner ZAFFARAN, winner of today's trip in Goodwood last month. On that occasion he beat Malsod 5/1 in a Listed event, but was somewhat outclassed when 17/1 at Newbury last time out.

EUROBIRD, 11-year-old, showed signs of retained ability when a neck 2nd to Minister Son in the Irish St Leger and looks the one to head off the substantial English challenge. Vincent O'Brien has changed his tactics and plans and John Reid now partners the lightly-raced Kris Kringle, with the hope of a repeat of last year's success.

John Reid found it hard to choose between Kris Kringle

Playschool waiting for more Hennessy glory

By Christopher Goulding

Mystery still surrounds Playschool's disappointing performance in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup when the David Barons-trained gelding was soon trailing the field and was eventually pulled up.

Jennifer Barons, the trainer's wife, said yesterday: "There has been no satisfactory outcome to the horse's below-par performance and the matter is still open in the Jockey Club files."

Playschool took all before him last season, winning the Hennessy Gold Cup, Welsh National, and the Vincent O'Brien Gold Cup. The Barons believed their star had been "got at" in the Gold Cup, but nothing has been proved.

"Playschool is very well and we expect to run him in early November," said Mrs Barons. "And if the handicapper is not too severe with him, he'll go for a second attempt at the Hennessy Gold Cup."

The Barons stable will be hoping that they can open their account for the season today at Stratford where their representative, Danny's Luck, lines

sensitive, Danny's Luck, lines up for the Anthony Robinson Memorial Novices Chase.

"We have not had that many runners," said Mrs Barons. "But there are some nice young horses in the yard."

"Auction Law, winner of both his two bumpers, will be a nice horse this year when he goes hurdling. Also, Sea Flower and Just This Once, who go novice chasing, will win their share of races," she said.

Oppidan, one of the opponents of Danny's Luck, will be the first runner of the season for Oliver Sherwood. Last season, he was crowned champion of the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle and Chase with Rebel Song and The West Awake respectively.

The West Awake, who showed his best form at Cheltenham having won last year's Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle, will not race until the New Year having recently undergone a pin-firing operation.

Sadeem heads Longchamp raid

Sadeem (Greville Starkey) heads a strong team of English stayers in the £21,400 Prix Gladiateur, over 2½ miles, at Longchamp tomorrow. About 200 runners are expected to take part in the race, which is the first of a series of races for the 1988 season. Sadeem is joined by Sergeyevich (Tony Ives) and Sudden Victory (Michael Hills).

In Cologne tomorrow, Shady Heights (Willie Carr) should pick up the group one Puma Europa Preis (12), worth £79,932 to the winner. He is opposed by Highland Chief (Michael Roberts), unbeaten in four starts in Germany.

Game Barford Lady provides perfect tonic for Huffer

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Geoff Huffer, the trainer of Persian Heights, was rushed to a Newmarket hospital on Thursday for an appendix operation and therefore missed Barford Lady to a short-head win over the Eddery and Thaidah in the Taylor Woodrow Team Charity Stakes, the feature race at Ascot yesterday.

"Geoff got back from Ireland on Wednesday. He felt ill yesterday and was operated on last night. He'll be in hospital for a week," said Jack Banks, the assistant trainer.

Not for nothing is Bardwell, the reigning champion apprentice, known as the Angry Ant. He rode a marvellous rhythmic first on Barford Lady as Eddery launched a determined attack on the runner-up, which only just failed.

Hypercritically, Banks said afterwards: "I thought Gary hit the front too soon. Barford Lady has to be held for a late run. But the lad did well."

The assistant trainer also had news of Persian Heights, who is strongly fancied to beat Warning and Soviet Star in this afternoon's big race, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. "He injured his back when only finishing fourth in Ireland, but he's fine now. I rode him in a five furlong pipe-opener this morning and he went well. The going is perfect."

Despite 0.2 of an inch of overnight rain, drying winds had made the ground in perfect condition for Festival of Britain Day. After Willie Carson had finished second on Gallant Hope in the Golden Spurs, the former champion jockey said: "It's just about on the good side of form. After I had won the first on the round course, I thought it was good to go, but it is firmer in the straight."

As the 23 runners - Breakaway was withdrawn at the start - in the five-furlong sprint spread right across the course, Richard Fox sent Dursingh clear of the stand-side runners two furlongs from home.

Battling on strongly, the six-year-old resisted the late attack of Carson on Gallant Hope, on the far side of the track, to win by two lengths. But he was only a neck away in third place. Carrying the colours worn on

Petong in the 1984 Wokingham Stakes, the tubed six-year-old is trained by Michael Jarvis at Newmarket. He had already been holidayed when he came to me at the start of the season, said the trainer. "So I had him tubed to see if it would work. I was worried that his headband might hinder his breathing, but Richard kept him covered up for the first three furlongs."

Peggy Cottrell, the wife of Gallant Hope's trainer, said: "He might have won if he had something to race with. After all, a horse doesn't know that there is another race going on. Ashtina, our other runner, was stopped by the wind. Ian Johnson said he was going well when he pulled him out to challenge. But then he snatched him and took him away like a kite."

If being tubed helped Dursingh, wearing blinkers for the first time had a similarly dramatic effect on Dust Devil, whom Carson rode to a six-length win for John Dunlop in the opening Hambro Countrywide Stakes.

He just wasn't paying attention so we put the blinkers on and they did the trick," said Aubrey Ison, Dust Devil's American owner.

Although the jockeys all reported the going to be good, the time suggested a slimming down of conditions. Tamsel Sand is therefore napped to win this afternoon's Totipol Maiden Festival Handicap. Denied a chance of winning the Ebor Handicap because of the firm going, Malcolm Jefferson's five-year-old quickened magnificently when winning on Ayr recently at his current price of 20-1, appeared as one of the best each-way bets of the season.

Blindered first time. ASCOT: 2.00 P.M. REDCAR: 3.15 P.M. Y.V. 3.45 P.M. YORK: 3.15 P.M. NEWCASTLE: 3.15 P.M. DONCASTER: 3.15 P.M. LEAMINGTON: 3.15 P.M. BIRMINGHAM: 3.15 P.M. NOTTINGHAM: 3.15 P.M. LUTON: 3.15 P.M. WIMBORNE: 3.15 P.M. BATH: 3.15 P.M. GLoucester: 3.15 P.M. Exeter: 3.15 P.M. Truro: 3.15 P.M. Falmouth: 3.15 P.M. Plymouth: 3.15 P.M. Brixham: 3.15 P.M. Dartmouth: 3.15 P.M. Totnes: 3.15 P.M. Bideford: 3.15 P.M. Barnstaple: 3.15 P.M. Tiverton: 3.15 P.M. Honiton: 3.15 P.M. Exmouth: 3.15 P.M. Sidmouth: 3.15 P.M. Bude: 3.15 P.M. Looe: 3.15 P.M. Newquay: 3.15 P.M. St Austell: 3.15 P.M. Penryn: 3.15 P.M. Falmouth: 3.15 P.M. Plymouth: 3.15 P.M. Brixham: 3.15 P.M. Dartmouth: 3.15 P.M. Totnes: 3.15 P.M. Bideford: 3.15 P.M. Barnstaple: 3.15 P.M. Tiverton: 3.15 P.M. Honiton: 3.15 P.M. Exmouth: 3.15 P.M. Sidmouth: 3.15 P.M. Bude: 3.15 P.M. Looe: 3.15 P.M. Newquay: 3.15 P.M. St Austell: 3.15 P.M. Penryn: 3.15 P.M. Falmouth: 3.15 P.M. Plymouth: 3.15 P.M. Brixham: 3.15 P.M. 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FOOTBALL: THE STRIKE-FORCE WHICH PAYS LITTLE HEED TO FIRST DIVISION REPUTATIONS

Hunting after the big game

By Clive White

Whatever happened to the first division that we Englishmen brashly used to describe as the strongest in the world? In recent seasons Watford and Wimbledon have bridged the gap between the peaks of the first and second divisions at the first attempt, but this week England's premier division was paid the final insult.

When asked how the first division compared with life in the second, one new recruit replied like a man who had been asked to comment honestly on the emperor's new clothes: "I don't like to say it, but the first division seems easier." Tony Cascarino, whose five goals have helped take Millwall to third place in the first assault on the division in 103 years, is the young man who boldly professed that opinion.

While Cascarino is far too modest an individual to be so presumptuous, it is indicative of how Millwall have refused to be dictated to by reputations. First division membership has given back the club its self respect and, possibly, that of their supporters, too.

There can be no disputing the fact that Cascarino and Teddy Sheringham, the other half of the Millwall goal-scoring machine, which could take the club to the very top of the league with victory against Norwich City at Carrow Road today, are finding the first division no more restrictive than the second.

Last season was their first in tandem and they celebrated it by scoring 47 goals. Not bad for a pair of forwards who were considered, at 6ft 11in, to be too alike to make a successful team.

In fact they compliment each other very well, off the field as well as on it. "Tony's deceptively quick," Sheringham says. "Teddy's an

instinctive player with great ability on the ball," Cascarino says. Together their finishing skills alone have been responsible for seven goals in four games against defences including people like Shilton, Wright, Southall and Watson. "The team's playing with such confidence we're enjoying it," was how Sheringham explained their success.

The mood of optimism is in stark contrast to the atmosphere which prevailed before the start of the season when they failed to win any of their pre-season games. "We were all expecting to get bashed week in, week out by the so-called big first division teams, so we have worked harder to ensure that we don't make fools of ourselves," Sheringham said. One senses that, with 26 Londoners on the playing staff of 22, a little dose of Cockney pride has had something to do with that.

The spirit within the club is heightened by the fact that the players have all been thrown in an the deep end together. Their experiences have all been shared, other than a handful of Republic of Ireland caps for Cascarino (who is about as London as Bow Bells but happens to have an Irish grandfather) and an under-21 cap apiece for Sheringham and McLeary, making club history by becoming the first pair of Millwall players to appear in the same international team.

There are no big heads. Indeed Cascarino considers himself fortunate to have been given the break into League football by courtesy of Crockenhill, who released him to Gillingham for a dozen trackuits in return.

He and Sheringham were third division rivals just two seasons ago. Cascarino, a life-



Goal hangers: Millwall's Cascarino (left) and Sheringham (Photograph: Matthew Harris)

long Millwall supporter, used to go to the Den in those days as a spectator, never realizing that one day he might find himself on the other side of the fence alongside the young Sheringham, who joined the club as an apprentice. "Because he's been under John Docherty, the manager, longer, Teddy tells me to do things on the field whereas I never tell him," Cascarino said. "Sometimes it seems as

though he's the 26-year-old and I'm the 22-year-old."

Sheringham estimates that his colleague has improved by 50 per cent since coming under the influence of the "Doc". "At Gillingham I was just told to go out and play," Cascarino said. Docherty has taught him about optimum positions to take up around the field so that he is better placed to take possession

Both are deeply aware of the expectations of Millwall's crowd. The Den can be an intimidating place for the home team as well as the visitors. "They want you to win so badly that their feelings spill off the terraces on to the field," Cascarino said. "Every ball has to be fought for 110 per cent." With commitment like that perhaps the first division can reclaim its place among the world's elite.

Davis gets Aberdeen date of FA inquiry

By Roddy Forsyth

Paul Davis, the Arsenal mid-field player, has been set a date to answer charges of bringing the game into disrepute. A three-man Football Association commission will decide on September 29 after watching two videos of the incident in which Glenn Hoddge claimed Davis broke his jaw with a punch.

The blow was captured by Independent Television News cameras and their film will be watched by the commission. But Arsenal claim their club video, which will also be considered, shows Davis being provoked in a stunning incident. The FA has refused to reveal who will sit on the commission.

Paul McGrath's proposed move to Tottenham Hotspur for £700,000 collapsed yesterday after almost a fortnight of negotiations. The Republic of Ireland defender pulled out.

● Arsenal yesterday supported the Football League's refusal to change the venue and date of their Centenary Trophy final against Manchester United.

United would prefer it to be played at Wembley, a neutral ground, on October 9, arguing that they should lose a coin with Arsenal for the right to stage it at either Old Trafford or Highbury. They are also reluctant to play at Wembley, which means postponing a League match the previous day.

● Seven weekend first division games have been postponed on October 13, four days before England's first World Cup qualifying game.

From an indifferent start to the season, Aberdeen have emerged as a team capable of challenging for every domestic honour. On Tuesday, the Pittodrie team reached the Skol Cup final with a powerful and assertive performance against Dundee United at Dens Park, Dundee, and last weekend Aberdeen's league season was at last limited with a 3-1 victory over Celtic in Glasgow.

This afternoon they have the chance to demonstrate their new vigour at home against the other beaten Skol Cup semi-finalists, Heart of Midlothian, who lost to Rangers at Hampden Park.

Aberdeen's joint manager, Alex Smith, reflecting on the tide of confidence which has burst over his players said yesterday: "I never believed we were very far away from getting it right. There are so many good players here that when I arrived I thought of the team as being like a grand piano out of tune. With hard work it was only a matter of time before we got the reward."

Today a draw would represent an achievement for Hearts, beaten twice in a week by Rangers, and a long way short of the steady form which has kept them in the top six.

Dave McPherson suffered an injury and the Edinburgh club will check his fitness before naming a team.

Dundee's players are well documented. The remedy is not so clear but for the fixture with

similarly struggling Dundee at Dens Park, the Parkhead manager, Billy McNeill, has decided to purge his defence. Ian Anderson, the goalkeeper and the Irish international defender, McCarthy, are replaced by the veteran Scottish goalkeeper, Gordon Strachan, who has recovered from a broken cheekbone, and the youthful central defender, Baillie. McNeill said: "I have been thinking about these changes all week. I have been patient and now we have to find the determination to get us back to the kind of form we must have if we are to defend our title."

Rangers, still without McColgan and Drinzel, are likely to continue with the players who carried the club into the Skol Cup final when they entertain St Mirren at Ibrox. As is now the custom with Rangers, the match is an all-Scottish affair.

The McLean brothers, Tommy and John, come together in their respective teams. Motherwell and Dundee United, who have been linked in the past, are likely to play their recently acquired Yugoslav imports, Miodrag Krivokapic and does not understand instructions from his teammates or manager.

The other Lanarkshire team, Hamilton Academical, have formed a link in prospect for the future. Hibs have conceded only one Premier Division goal to date.

Smyth in charge with hole in one

Stuttgart (Reuters) — A hole in one helped Des Smyth set the early pace in the second round of the West German Masters. The Irish Ryder Cup international finished with a 68 for a five-under-par total of 139.

Smyth hit the hole in one with a seven-iron at the 137-yard eighth hole; it was the tenth of his career and the second this season.

Unfortunately, he chose the wrong hole. A car worth £23,000 sterling is on offer for a similar feat at the 15th, where the Irishman had a 12-inch, ear-length hole in one. Smyth, who had a 68 for a five-under-par total of 139, finished with a 71 for a two-under-par 210.

He then pushed the 16th, and three-putted again at the last for a par five. "It was a disappointing end, but one day I will kill this course," he said.

Smyth had a 75 for level-par round of 144, taking a triple bogey seven at the 4th after going out of bounds.

Jan Woosnam also completed in 70 for a two-under-par 142, a stroke ahead of Bernhard Langer, the local favourite, who ran into more trouble putting and finished with a 75.

● Bad weather wiped out play in the Scottish professional championship at Hags Castle, Glasgow yesterday. More than an inch of rain fell in the area last night and the start of the second round will be postponed. The 30 best scores will qualify for the final two rounds on Sunday.

● Ajax appointment The Hague (Reuters) — Ajax Amsterdam, leading the Dutch league after finishing runners-up last season, have named their assistant coach, Anton Kohn, as acting coach to replace Kurt Linder, who has been dismissed. Kohn said he would impose greater discipline and toughen up training sessions for the team.

Dibnah's rhythm an apt response to wind's bluster

By Mitchell Platts Golf Correspondent

Corinne Dibnah, the British Open champion, defied blustery conditions to score a second round of 72 in the Toshiba Players Championship on the Old Thorns course, near Liphook, yesterday.

It was a typically courageous effort by the Australian golfer, who now has a four-under-par aggregate of 142. "I'm a bit of a sufferer and I had a particularly bad one out there," she said. "I had to send in for pain killers."

Dibnah, however, refused to be intimidated even when she dropped her only shot by leaving her first recovery attempt in the sand at the third hole. Otherwise this was a near flawless effort, during which she swung the club with an easy rhythm throughout.

Dibnah gathered her first birdie at the eighth where she holed from 10 feet and her other at the last, where she won with a seven-iron. Since winning the British Open in 1977, Miss Dibnah has been aware of the need to guard against that performance affecting the rest of her season.

"It's fun being the champion," she said. "But you must try not to allow the title to affect

your attitude. It was the biggest moment in my career but as far as I'm concerned there are still other tournaments to win this season, including this one."

Dale Reid, who won the European Open title earlier this year, maintained her challenge for the first prize of £7,500 with a 76, which left her four shots behind Dibnah. She was hindered by the cold and windy weather and faltered after birdies at the fifth and sixth holes had taken her into the lead.

The organizers were compelled to delay the start of play by 30 minutes while 12 new holes were cut on the greens because of heavy rain overnight. Laura Davies struggled to a 78 for a score of 147. She did learn, however, from the Tour that no further action will be taken on her previous day's comments on the condition of the course.

LEADING SECOND ROUND SCORES (65 and under unless stated): 142: C Dibnah (Aus), 72: 146: P Reid (W), 73: 147: L Davies (W), 74: 148: S Reid (W), 75: 149: M Reid (W), 76: 150: P Reid (W), 77: 151: P Reid (W), 78: 152: P Reid (W), 79: 153: P Reid (W), 80: 154: P Reid (W), 81: 155: P Reid (W), 82: 156: P Reid (W), 83: 157: P Reid (W), 84: 158: P Reid (W), 85: 159: P Reid (W), 86: 160: P Reid (W), 87: 161: P Reid (W), 88: 162: P Reid (W), 89: 163: P Reid (W), 90: 164: P Reid (W), 91: 165: P Reid (W), 92: 166: P Reid (W), 93: 167: P Reid (W), 94: 168: P Reid (W), 95: 169: P Reid (W), 96: 170: P Reid (W), 97: 171: P Reid (W), 98: 172: P Reid (W), 99: 173: P Reid (W), 100: 174: P Reid (W), 101: 175: P Reid (W), 102: 176: P Reid (W), 103: 177: P Reid (W), 104: 178: P Reid (W), 105: 179: P Reid (W), 106: 180: P Reid (W), 107: 181: P Reid (W), 108: 182: P Reid (W), 109: 183: P Reid (W), 110: 184: P Reid (W), 111: 185: P Reid (W), 112: 186: P Reid (W), 113: 187: P Reid (W), 114: 188: P Reid (W), 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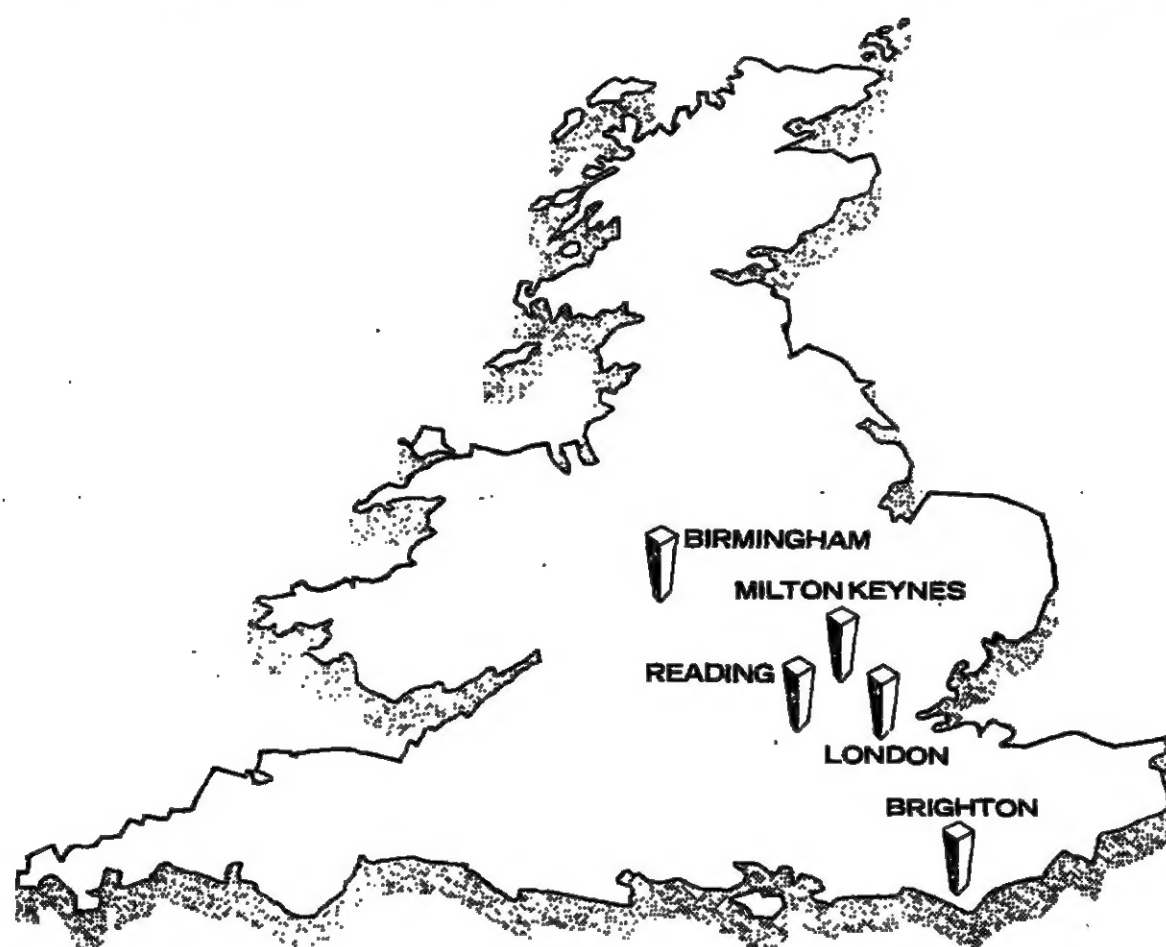
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OUTDOOR LEISURE

Who needs a season for sailing?

By mid-September, in the grand old days, one had laid up one's yacht.

Now some sailors simply never stop. **Malcolm McKeag** reports on a changing tradition

At the boat yard at Cultra, on Belfast Lough, there is a saying: if you don't bring your yacht ashore by the end of the second week in September, God will bring her ashore for you. The weathermen may insist that the "equinoctial gales" of September's third week are an illusion, that there is no scientific relationship between the hours of darkness and the weight of the wind; but yachtsmen study the weather from the point of view of the end-user. Leave a boat on her mooring through the autumn equinox, they will tell you in Cultra, and you are storing up trouble.

On the other side of the lough, at Carrickfergus Marina, they are less worried by tradition. Even as you read this page, the autumn race series are being planned and drawers at home are searched for gloves, woolly hats and thermal underwear. Yacht racing in winter, they say at Carrickfergus, is much like yacht racing in summer — only colder.

In more genteel times, no one would have wanted to race yachts in winter. The yachting season used to finish for all but the most idiosyncratic in September, if not because of equinoctial gales, then because of the distractions of land-based pursuits. It is far from a coincidence that the "J" Week, starting as it does on the Saturday after Goodwood (which itself always starts on the last Tuesday in July) cannot finish later than August 10 — a narrow squeak that just leaves time enough to reach the moors by the Twelfth.

But social patterns change, and yachting has changed with them. Traditional rubrics of

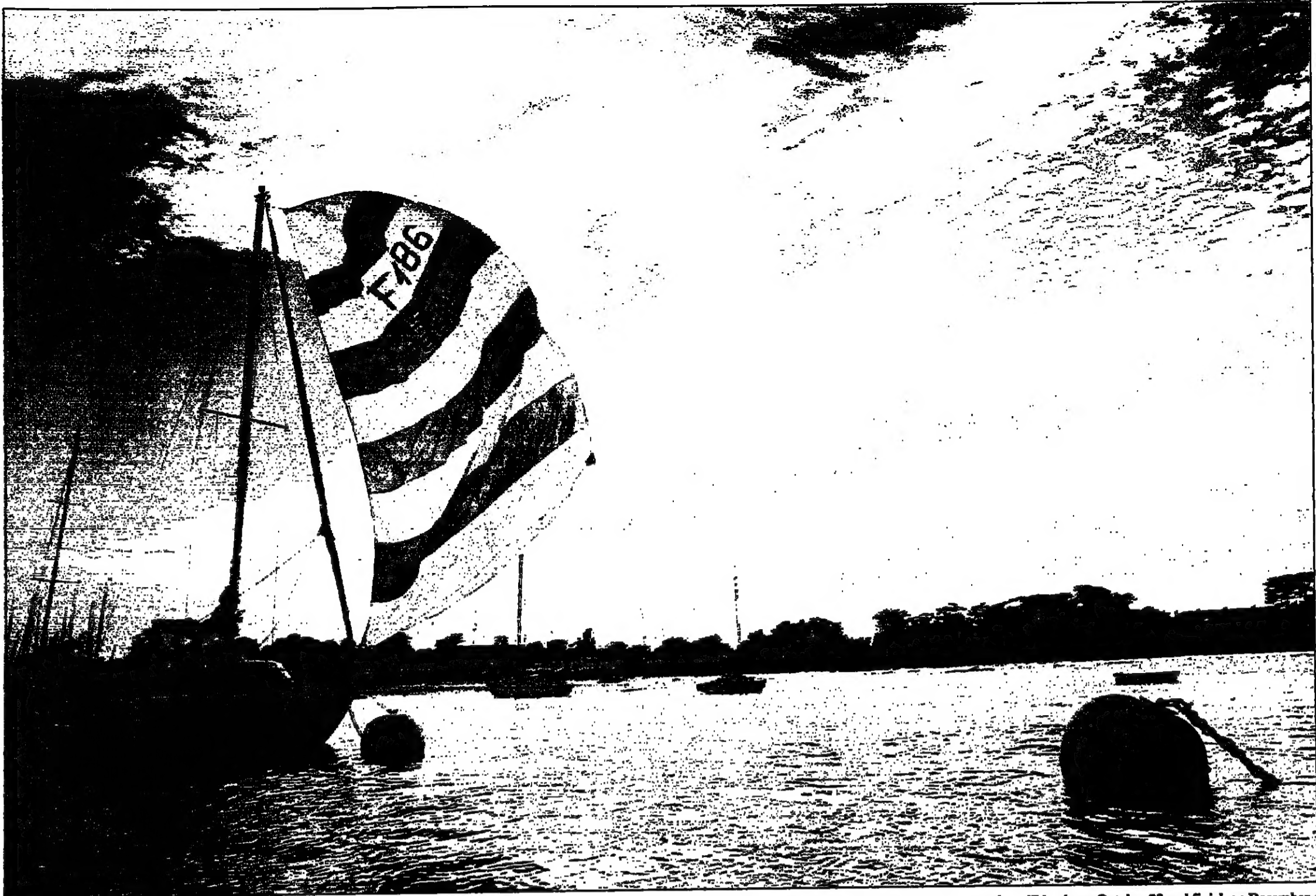
Seventy-five per cent of our owners now keep their boats afloat all year round

the yachting calendar have become more honoured in their breach than in their observance and the almost liturgical progression through the season — from fitting out in the spring to laying up in the autumn — is no longer followed with such reverence. Yachting for many is now close to a year-round pleasure. That is not to say that the September winds have changed their nature or their force. Indeed, it is virtually impossible to get insurance cover for a yacht left afloat on an exposed, swinging mooring after September. But these days, with marinas, you don't need to.

The advent of the marina has had a profound effect. With their security, shelter, convenience and 12-month berth rental agreements, they allow yachts to stay afloat for longer, and give the yachtsman the chance to take what advantage he may of sparkling days in October, November and December. On the English south coast, where marina berths outnumber traditional moorings almost three to one, the yachtsman who lays up in the old sense is the rarity, not the rule.

In parts of the country with fewer marinas, of course, laying up is still an autumn ritual. The east coast, in particular, follows the old pattern. Back in the grand days, wealthier yachtsmen sent their craft for winter lay-up in the mudberths of Brightlingsea, Tollesbury, Rowledge and Wivenhoe. The crews lived there and earned their winter livelihood working their own oyster smacks and fishing boats.

Still today, many east coast yachtsmen traditionally haul ashore at season's end at a traditional yard. On the Thames foreshore at Southend-on-Sea, a co-operative of cruising yachtsmen will hire a mobile crane and spend a September weekend lifting their yachts from the beach by the seawall, trundling them across the road to the yacht club boat park — occupied by racing dinghies during the



The end to a day's sailing — but not to the season — on the Hamble, where marinas and traditional moorings are mixed. The Hamble River Sailing Club's autumn series will begin on October 23 and finish on December 4



The all-important annual check-up: Tony Staton-Bevan, yacht surveyor, checks a propeller for corrosion (top), and checks a glass fibre hull with a moisture meter (above) at the Berthon yard at Lynton, home to some of the country's top offshore racing yachts. Some owners still require full winter lay-up ashore in a solid steel cradle (right)



season — and putting them away for the winter. It is a scene repeated at modest yachting centres all around the coast, for nowadays yacht ownership is far from restricted merely to the well-heeled.

Even on the east coast, however, there are winter sailors. Mike Peyton, a cartoonist whose lugubrious etchings continually remind yachtsmen of their failings, sails all year round from his Farnbridge base on the River Crouch, and unfailingly attends a Boxing Day meet on the nearby Roach. Sometimes he meets only a few fellow dihardists, sometimes more, but *gluhwein* and turkey are always *de rigueur*.

Staying afloat all winter on the east coast rivers offers a special hazard: ice damage. The rivers seldom freeze, but during the hardest months of February and March great sheets of ice form on the shallow pools of the saltings and marshes. Spring tides lift and float these sheets and carry them on the strong ebb downriver, where their razor edges can slice through a yacht's planking at the waterline. Glassfibre topsides are no less vulnerable.

Further north, marinas are changing the face of yachting.

At Rhu, the only marina on the north shore of the Clyde, pontoon berthing has extended the yachting season by three months. According to Nick Stratton, sales manager, the change in habits has spawned special racing series in what used to be the closed season, with the barely few sailing up to Christmas. But no one, Stratton says, sails on the Clyde in January, February or March: "The weather sees to that — and the usual winter pursuits. Join the queue for the ski-lift at Glencoe of a winter weekend and you find yourself beside the same people you queued alongside all summer, for the launch at the Royal Northern and Clyde jetty."

On the south coast, with its proliferation of marinas, yacht clubs and good and sheltered sailing waters, the absentee yacht owner requires a different sort of service, says Steve Mehlmann, senior refit manager of the Berthon Boat Company at Lynton.

"Seventy-five per cent of our owners now keep their boats afloat all year round," he points out. "Some want the boat merely taken out of commission — a dehumidifier

installed in the saloon, batteries put on charge, that order of maintenance. Some want full 'winterization' afloat: engine drained, tanks emptied, pipework disconnected, and so on.

"And a few still require full lay-up ashore, with the yacht lifted out and stored in a solid steel cradle if the mast is to be left standing. We insist now on owners having proper cradles made for their yachts if they are going to lay-up ashore properly. Last autumn's hurricane taught us all a thing or two. We were lucky, but many yards suffered dreadful damage."

Mehlmann's approach is rigorous. An owner putting his yacht into the Berthon's care is presented with a four-page, 87-item order form to fill in, detailing his requirements on everything from what to do with the dinghy's outboard to what colour to repaint the yacht. Safety is paramount. Navigational gear is stripped and checked, flares checked for time-expiry and the liferaft checked and serviced.

Mehlmann sees "his" yachts as a trainer sees "his" race horses. He likes owners to leave the yacht in his yard's care, and pay the bill. Extra winter costs can run to £2,000 for a big yacht.

"Generally, we reckon any well-maintained yacht will cost about 10 per cent of her value in annual upkeep," says Mehlmann. "Of which 10 per cent is likely to be the lay-up cost — in other words, about 1 per cent of the value of the yacht each year. Not a lot, is it?"

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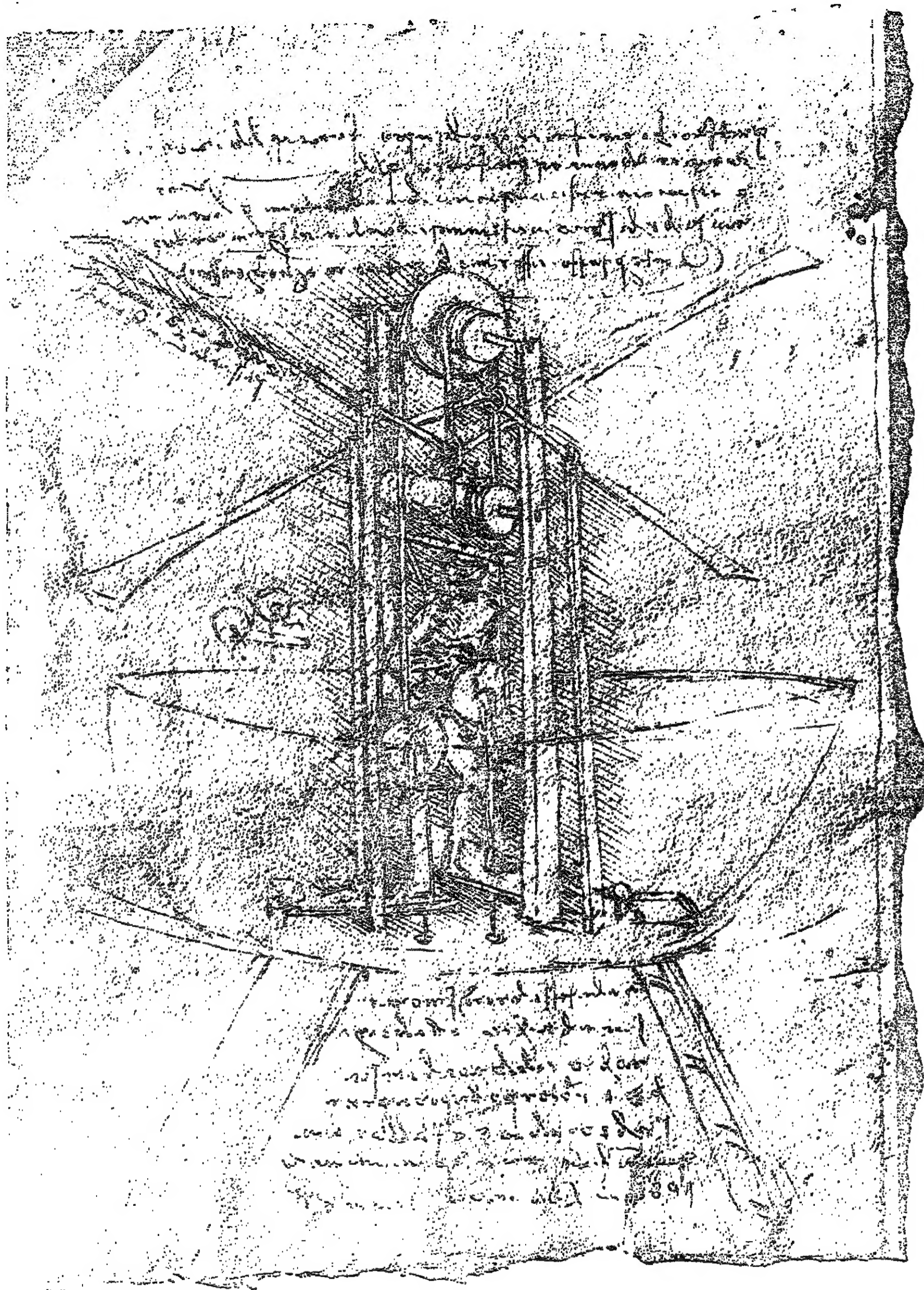
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